



Jordan Times

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Iraq: Allies looted antiquities

BAGHDAD (R) — Baghdad accused U.S.-led allied troops Saturday of looting antiquities dating back 5,000 years when they occupied southern Iraq during the Gulf war. "Nearly 4,000 ancient pieces were stolen and the fate of 96 per cent of them is still unknown," Maysad Said Damerji, Iraq's director of antiquities, said in an interview with the government newspaper Al Jumhuriyah. "Antiquities from the ancient Ur site 350 kilometres south of Baghdad had been looted by the aggressive troops," he said, referring to the ancient city now named Nasiriyah. Ur is the cradle of the 5,000-year-old Sumerian civilisation. Allied troops reached the outskirts of the city during the Gulf war and withdrew after Iraq accepted U.N. ceasefire terms last March. Mr. Damerji told Reuters earlier this month that the heaviest damage was inflicted by post-war rioters who rampaged through several Iraqi cities following the ceasefire declaration. Iraq moved its priceless collection of antiquities to sites around the country for safe-keeping during the war, but parts of it fell victim to the Shiite rebellion in the south and a parallel revolt by autonomy-seeking Kurds in the north.

Ultra-orthodox Jews fight police

TEL AVIV (R) — Thousands of ultra-orthodox Jews protesting against Sabbath traffic on a new road battled Israeli police with stones and iron bars in occupied Jerusalem Saturday. Mounted police periodically charged a sea of screaming, black-coated ultra-orthodox who surged towards highway one, which connects the centre of Jerusalem with the north and passes close to some of Jerusalem's most religious Jewish neighbourhoods. Jewish law forbids driving on Saturday. Certain streets in orthodox districts are closed on the Sabbath but main thoroughfares stay open. Witnesses said the mass of protesters were contained on Shmuel Hanevi road which is closed to traffic on the Sabbath and runs parallel to the new road, where traffic flowed freely. Israeli Radio said five protesters were injured and three policemen were taken to hospital. Demonstrators also beat two news photographers. Police said the clash erupted when the demonstrators broke an agreement with the authorities. "They tried to get to highway one in contradiction of the condition (permitting the demonstration) that they'd stay on Shmuel Hanevi (road)...therefore we prevented their bursting onto the highway," a police spokesman told Israeli Radio.

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Assad: Syria will continue to further peace

DAMASCUS (R) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad said Saturday he would continue to push for peace in the Middle East despite obstacles raised by Israel, officials said. They said Mr. Assad's pledge came during a meeting with Alexi II, patriarch of Moscow and all Russia, who is currently visiting Syria. Soviet Ambassador Alexander Zotov attended the talks. "President Assad affirmed that Syria will continue to push forward the peace process in the region despite the obstacles raised by Israel," an official said. Patriarch Alexi expressed appreciation for Syria's role in efforts aimed at achieving a Middle East peace settlement and expressed hope that a just solution is achieved in the region.

Zubaidi, Majid join Iraqi ruling council

NICOSIA (AP) — Iraq's new prime minister and the interior minister, both staunch backers of President Saddam Hussein, were appointed Saturday to the country's ruling Revolution Command Council (RCC), an official announcement said. The announcement carried by the Iraqi News Agency said the appointment of Prime Minister Mohammed Al Zubaidi and Interior Minister Ali Hassan Al Majid was decided by a unanimous vote during a meeting of the council. The dispatch said another senior member of the Arab Baath Socialist Party, Mubashir Khader Hadi, also was appointed to the council, expanding the country's decision-making body to eight instead of five members. President Saddam named Mr. Zubaidi prime minister on Sept. 14 after sacking Saddam Hammadi from both the government post and the RCC.

League envoy sees Kuwaitis in Iraq

BAGHDAD (R) — Baghdad said Saturday that an Arab League envoy had met Kuwaitis in Iraq and investigated their living conditions. The Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted Abdullah Adam, the Arab League secretary-general's representative, as saying he visited the Kuwaitis in four districts in the northern province of Mosul, 400 kilometres north of Baghdad. INA described them as "Kuwaitis in Iraq" and Mr. Adam did not say what their fate would be.

Plaintiff turns defendant in Diana case

LAHORE (AP) — A judge on Saturday dismissed a lawsuit against an Islamic cleric accused of defaming Islam for allowing the Princess of Wales to enter a mosque with her knees exposed. Instead, Judge Asmat Ali Khan accused the lawyer, who caused a stir over Princess Diana's visit Sept. 25 to the ancient Badshahi Mosque, of filing "false and frivolous complaints" and fined him 2,000 rupees (\$80). Sohail Rumi, a 32-year-old lawyer, alleged in his lawsuit that mosque cleric Qadir Azad had insulted Islam by allowing Princess Diana into the 300-year mosque while wearing a green dress that was slightly above her knees.

Head, 39 injured in Karachi explosions

KARACHI (R) — Three people were killed and 39 injured in four bomb blasts within a few minutes outside government offices in Karachi Saturday, police said. The bombs, timed to explode during late morning, were planted in cars outside police headquarters, the Sindh provincial government secretariat, a Karachi Development Authority office and a crime investigation agency centre. Senior police officer Jamil Ahmad Khan said seven of the people injured were in serious condition in hospital. Sindh Chief Minister Jam Sadiq Ali, speaking to reporters at the city's Jinnah Hospital, described the blasts as anti-state terrorism, but said: "I am not afraid of anybody and I am not going to spare those involved."

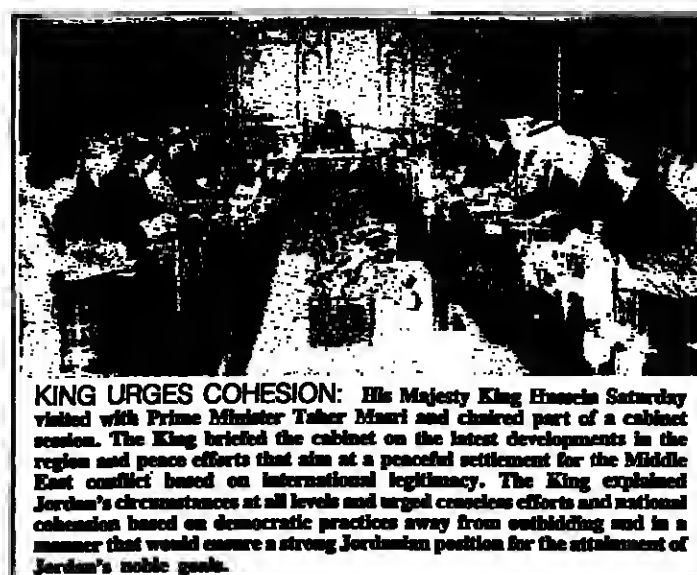
King meets PLO team, reviews peace process

Participation in peace conference not on Israel's terms — Masri

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday met with senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials for talks aimed at clearing the way for a joint delegation to the planned Middle East peace conference. The PLO officials included Executive Committee members Mahmoud Abbas, Yasser Abed Rabbo, Abdullah Al Hourani and Suleiman Al Najjib. King Hussein exchanged views with the PLO delegation on the latest developments in the peace process and the need to coordinate stands among Arab states, the Jordan News Agency, Petra said. The meeting was attended by the King's political advisor Adnan Abu Odeh, the King's military secretary His Royal Highness Prince Talal Bin Mohammad and Palestinian ambassador to Jordan Al Tayyeb Abdul Rahim. The PLO has accepted in principle Jordan's offer to attend the peace conference with a joint delegation but final preparations are in limbo while the Palestinians press for greater U.S. assurances on the talks. Prime Minister Taher Masri expressed hope that the projected peace conference would lead to the implementation of interna-

tional legitimacy and an exchange of land for peace. Speaking in an Algerian Television programme with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and Arab League Secretary-General Esmat Abdul Meguid, the prime minister said "the Arab countries are heading towards the conference with one single vision and one principled stand." "The joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation will be a sort of an umbrella and under this umbrella there will be a Jordanian team and a Palestinian team," he said. The Jordanian delegation, he said, will discuss the Jordanian dimension of the problem and the Palestinian team will deal with the Palestinian dimension. But, he noted, due to the nature of the present and future links between the two peoples, there must be some kind of connection without interference in the Palestinian course of action. "The Arabs in general and Jordanians and the Palestinians in particular will not go to the conference in order to discuss Israel's terms," the prime minister said. "If we decide that the Israeli conditions are to determine whether we go or not, then there will not be any conference or settlement," Mr. Masri stressed. "We go to the conference in order to achieve the Arab nation's goals and implement international legitimacy." Mr. Arafat said Palestinians were still awaiting the clarifications they needed to take part in the peace conference. Mr. Arafat, in the same Algerian Television programme, said that Washington seemed to want to impose Israeli conditions on the Palestinians. "Up until now, the American administration has not provided a satisfactory reply," he said. "Without clarification we cannot take part in the peace conference. To do otherwise would be to betray the cause," he added. U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has made seven trips to the Middle East since the end of the Gulf war in February, trying to organise Arab-Israeli talks for later this month. The Soviet Union has agreed to co-sponsor the talks. France said Friday it expected the conference to be held in Europe at the end of this month. But in Washington, U.S. President George Bush said that while preparations had advanced, no

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Likud panel said ready to accept settlement curb

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — A narrow majority of the ruling Likud Party's central committee seems willing to accept some curbs on Jewish settlements in the occupied Arab territories if the United States demands it, Israel Radio said Saturday. The report quoted an internal Likud survey. Israel Radio reporter Yoel Nir told Reuters the party had polled 730 of the committee's 3,000 members. The poll also found majorities favouring partial withdrawal from the occupied Golan Heights in exchange for peace with Syria but opposed to any compromise on Jerusalem, the West Bank or the Gaza Strip. Likud's central committee sets broad policy objectives and decides who will be party candidates in national elections. The party is led by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir who has vowed never to give up an inch of the Arab territories. The party's survey found only four per cent of members surveyed would bow to Washington if it demanded a total freeze on the movement of new Jewish settlers to the occupied territories. But 48 per cent would accept a freeze on the creation of new Jewish

settlements in the occupied territories during a Middle East peace conference. A freeze on new settlements would still allow Housing Minister Ariel Sharon to pursue a building boom in existing settlements where some 100,000 Jews now live among 1.75 million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The survey found 46 per cent against a freeze of any sort. Two per cent did not reply. In another surprise finding, 53 per cent of committee members surveyed said they would give up part of the Golan Heights as long as that part was demilitarised and there was true peace with Syria in return. Forty-two per cent were against any withdrawal. A majority opposed any withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza Strip but 44 per cent would give up some part of those areas for a peace agreement with the Palestinians and Jordan. No one would give up any part of Jerusalem, the radio said. Israel Radio aired the report only

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No dinar devaluation or IMF pressure for it, Jordaneh says

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Finance Minister Basel Jaradneh Saturday categorically denied that the government was planning to devalue the Jordanian dinar and rejected reports that the government was under pressure from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank to do so. Mr. Jaradneh, in a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the government and a visiting IMF-World Bank delegation discussed Jordan's economic performance and found that the Kingdom had gone a long way in addressing the adverse economic impact of the Gulf war. The discussions and a joint assessment of the Jordanian economy found that "Jordan has covered a lot of ground in addressing the negative effects of the Gulf crisis and in maintaining the stability of the dinar as well as rebuilding the Kingdom's foreign exchange reserves," Mr. Jaradneh told Petra. The assessment also concluded that the present exchange rate of the Jordanian dinar "is suitable for the long-term economic policies of Jordan," the minister said. "There is no ground at all for rumours that the IMF and the World Bank are demanding a devaluation of the dinar," he said, adding that "this issue was not discussed at all during the delegation's talks here." According to a source close to the delegation, while there was no IMF or World Bank demand for any "adjustment" in the value of the dinar, "it is well known that the IMF favours a free market system where demand and supply determine the value of currency."

According to the source, "the ideal situation favoured by the IMF is to do away with any government body (the Central Bank in the case of Jordan) setting the exchange rates." But, "the IMF also understands Jordan's peculiar situation, and it is not an issue between the IMF and Jordan," added the source, who preferred anonymity. Economic analysts and independent experts as well as senior banking executives interviewed by the Jordan Times last week expressed the opinion that there were no reasons warranting any devaluation of the Jordanian dinar. They pointed out that Jordan's foreign exchange reserves were at their highest in the last five years and there was sufficient foreign currency available with the commercial banks to meet the Kingdom's import needs. Furthermore, they said they also expected a flow of foreign currency into the Kingdom at a level conducive to maintaining the stability of the Jordanian dinar. In his statement Saturday, Mr. Jaradneh did not announce the details of the progress made in talks between the government and the IMF-World Bank delegation. It was expected that Mr. Jaradneh, who headed the talks with the delegation, would provide some insight into the discussions with the IMF. Informed sources told the Jordan Times that a draft document containing points of agreement between Jordan and the IMF was drawn up. But it was not final and that discussions were expected to continue between the two sides. The suggestions/recommendations made by the

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Iraq urges U.N. inspectors to be fair in their jobs

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — The head of the U.N. commission charged with hunting down Iraq's weapons of mass destruction met Saturday with Foreign Minister Ahmad Hussein Khudayer, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said. The agency said Mr. Khudayer met in Baghdad with Rolf Ekus, head of the U.N. special commission, to discuss the progress of the inspections. "Iraq demands that the inspection teams be fair in fulfilling their tasks and not become a tool for a state or group of states that have political designs against Iraq and its people," it quoted Mr. Khudayer as telling Mr. Ekus. Mr. Ekus arrived in Baghdad Friday on a mission to improve cooperation with the Iraqi government, following a confrontation between Iraqi officials and nuclear inspectors. The 44 inspectors were kept for several days in a parking lot when Iraqi officials refused to let them remove documents that reportedly detail a secret atom bomb project. Iraq eventually relented and allowed the inspectors to take the documents. They later left the country with carefuls of the papers. A report filed by the inspectors said that Iraq has been working on mounting nuclear weapons on surface-to-surface missiles. The report said: "Contrary to Iraqi claims of having only a peaceful nuclear programme, the

team found documents showing that Iraq had been working on the revision of a nuclear weapons design and one linking the IAEA (Iraqi Atomic Energy Commission) to work on a surface-to-surface missile project — presumably the intended delivery system for their nuclear weapon." It also said the U.N. team found a document "suggesting the parallel development of a missile delivery system for the ongoing nuclear weapons programme. In the document, the Ministry of Defence instructed the IAEA to postpone an experiment until after surface-to-surface missile testing." The report, by the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), was based on a preliminary review of documents seized, photographed or seen by a U.N. nuclear inspection team during visits to two Iraqi establishments on Sept. 23 and 24. In Vienna, David Kay, leader of the inspection team, confirmed that the team found evidence the Iraqis were not only working on a detonation system for nuclear weapons, but were in the testing phase of a surface-to-surface missile that would serve as the delivery system. "I am impressed by the comprehensiveness of the design approach and solutions that they had arrived at," said Mr. Kay, speaking at the IAEA Vienna

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Iranian report says Israel to free same prisoners

BEIRUT (AP) — In the latest welter of conflicting signals, Iran's official news agency (IRNA) reported Saturday that Israel would soon release a group of Arab detainees in exchange for a Western hostage, possibly an American. The report, however, came hard on the heels of a statement by the chief Israeli hostage negotiator that the Jewish state would not free more Arab prisoners until it has obtained full accounting of its servicemen missing in Lebanon. Also Saturday, Beirut's leading newspaper Al Nahar said in short report that Israeli authorities in South Lebanon had transferred a number of inmates from the Khiam detention camp to an un-

Gorbachev announces major arms reductions

MOSCOW (Agencies) — President Mikhail Gorbachev Saturday announced sweeping cuts in tactical nuclear weapons on land and sea to match reductions announced by U.S. President George Bush, the news agency TASS reported. In a statement, Gorbachev said the Soviet Union would "liquidate all nuclear artillery and nuclear warheads" from tactical missiles, move nuclear-tipped Zenith missiles to a central base and destroy "some of them," remove all tactical nuclear weapons from ships and from "multi-purpose submarines." "Moreover, we are suggesting to the United States to fully liquidate, on a bilateral basis, all tactical nuclear weapons of the navy," the statement said. Mr. Gorbachev, in a statement prepared for broadcast later, announced a one-year moratorium, from Saturday, on nuclear testing, and a cut of 700,000 troops in the Soviet army. TASS said Moscow would make deep cuts in its strategic

nuclear arsenal, exceeding reduction targets in the new START treaty reached with the United States by an additional 1,000 warheads. The Soviet arms initiative follows a broad package of cuts announced last week by President Bush. The U.S. plan, which focused largely on battle-field tactical weapons, was aimed in part at ensuring nuclear arms did not fall into the wrong hands as the centralised Soviet state slides into uncertainty. Following the U.S. lead, Mr. Gorbachev said he had ordered the Soviet nuclear bomber force to be taken off combat alert and he said a range of nuclear weapons were being transferred from forward units to more secure central stockpiles. Moscow would also suspend development work on new nuclear missiles for heavy bombers and other weapons systems and take a total of six submarines,

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Constitution Bloc, upset at exclusion from reshuffle, says it no longer has confidence in government

By Nermeen Murad Jordan Times Staff Reporter
AMMAN — The 18-member Constitution Bloc, upset by its exclusion from the recent reshuffle of the Masri cabinet, said Saturday the government in its current make-up "is unable to meet the requirements of the (current) phase and declares it no longer has confidence in it." The one-page communique came two days after Prime Minister Taher Masri reshuffled his government bringing in five new ministers, one of whom was a parliamentarian, and dropping five others, three of them members of the Lower House. The Constitution Bloc,

reigning as the second largest bloc in the House and headed by Irbid Deputy Thogon Hindawi, said in its announcement that its initial decision to grant the government its confidence in July was proof of its good intentions and that its members were not looking for ministerial posts. "The speech on behalf of the bloc (in the confidence session in July) was an attempt to be polite in bringing to the government's attention its failings," the statement said. "But the bloc refuses to be bypassed or that its parliamentary weight be ignored when formulating political decisions or as part of consultations on the future of the

country," the statement said. Mr. Hindawi, who has announced his intention to run for the speakership seat in the Lower House in the next ordinary session of the House, was apparently offered the deputy prime minister portfolio in Mr. Masri's cabinet, but had declined the offer for his person to enable to continue the parliamentary race. But, according to the statement, Mr. Hindawi had presented the premier with conditions for the participation of members of his bloc, and was promised an answer by Saturday. The strongly-worded statement said, "the president (of the bloc) explained that the

bloc believed that a new forceful government was needed, or at least a restructuring of the existing government, at its roots, to rectify failings in it." "The bloc said it was ready to participate in the government on clear conditions but was not ready to be part of the patching up of the existing government," the statement added. Jordanian politicians had criticised the reshuffle Friday as lacking in depth because the Constitution Bloc was not included in it as was widely expected. But a senior cabinet source had dismissed the cri-



Thogon Hindawi

Families of detainees press for action

By Nermeen Murad Jordan Times Staff Reporter
AMMAN — The families and friends of eight detainees who have been on a hunger strike for nine consecutive days at Swaga prison will picket at the doors of the Prime Ministry this morning calling on the government to begin judicial procedures on the cases of the detainees. The eight detainees, who, according to relatives, were arrested when they crossed the Jordanian-Israeli demarcation line and clashed with an Israeli patrol, have been in prison for the past six months but are yet to be charged or tried. They were arrested on April 5 and have been detained since that date without trial. According to one of their relatives, the detainees went on strike to bring attention to their extended detention and to press the government to look into their cases and decide whether to issue charges against the detainees or free them. "Why haven't they been charged? Why aren't they tried? These are the questions that we want to ask," the relative, who requested anonymity, told the Jordan Times. The relative said that the health situation of the detainees was deteriorating and but that they were adamant to continue their strike until "someone remembers them." "When are they going to be remembered? They have been in prison for six months," the relative said. About 50 relatives and friends of the eight detainees picketed at the Red Cross offices in Amman Thursday. According to the relative, a letter was also delivered to the prime minister and deputies have intervened on behalf of the detainees but there were no developments on their case. The eight detainees are: Anwar Abdul Rahman, Jihad Mahmood Al Najjar, Khalid Ibrahim Ahmad Salameh, Mohammad Mahmood Salameh, Ahmad Mohammad Abdul Aziz, Khalil Abdullah Abu Selmeh, Abdul Rahman Mohammad Abdul Fattah, Youssef Ahmad and Youssef Al Bayed.

Western support for regimes behind lack of democracy in Gulf — Kuwaiti opposition leader

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The prospect of democracy spreading to the Gulf states will remain dim as long as Western powers continue to strongly support feudal rulers in the oil-rich region, according to one of the most prominent leaders of Kuwait's pro-democracy movement.

Officially organised suppression of pro-democracy movements in the Gulf has been stepped up recently in order to counter any attempt by political and religious leaders to press for more political representation in the existing political institutions, said Ahmad Al Khatib, secretary general of the Democratic Party of Kuwait.

Dr. Khatib, a former member of the Kuwaiti parliament, called on the international community to further the cause of democracy and human rights everywhere and refrain from closing its eyes to injustices even when it may be convenient to do so.

Speaking at a German parliamentary hearing organised by the Bundnis Grünen '90 (Green Party) in Bonn, Dr. Khatib said that the Gulf rulers, particularly the Al Sabah family of Kuwait, were the "political dinosaurs" of this century.

"We have the dinosaurs of the 20th century still living in the Gulf and the sad thing is that your governments like them because they are easy to deal with," he told a mostly German audience.

In his half-hour talk, Dr. Khatib told members of the

German parliament and Middle East experts about the rudimentary form of democracy that existed in Kuwait since the beginning of this century and how it had been suppressed with the aid of more than one Western nation.

Dr. Khatib said that the main contribution to democracy and human rights that the West, in particular Britain and in later years the U.S., made in the Gulf was a strong support of regimes that systematically repressed legal constitutions as well as democratic movements that existed in Kuwait as well as in the emirate of Dubai and Bahrain.

"You are dealing with rulers who believe and act as if they own the ground that any one within the borders of their countries walks in," Dr. Khatib said.

He said it was regrettable that the West had chosen to deal with non-democratic forces in the Gulf since the beginning of its relationship with that region.

The beginning of the Western influence in Kuwait was catastrophic, according to Dr. Khatib. When the British pledged to support an "illegal" emir, they blunted a previously democratic process in which the emir is elected.

"The British supported Emir Mubarak despite the fact that he had taken power contrary to the existing Kuwaiti law and against the wishes of the Kuwaiti people," Dr. Khatib said.

Several years later, when the Kuwaiti parliament asked to be allowed to inspect a treaty that the emir had

signed with the British on the future of Kuwait's oil industries, the emir refused saying it was a "private matter." According to Dr. Khatib, the British, who were the "protectors" of Kuwait at the time, told the emir to dissolve parliament. After several parliamentarians were shot and killed by the "Sabah men," others fled to India where "they were promptly arrested by the British," Dr. Khatib said.

In the 1960s, when the pro-democracy movement in Bahrain was crushed by the ruling Al Khalifa family, the leaders of the movement were imprisoned in the island of St. Helena.

"They had no trial and stayed there for five years in British prisons," Dr. Khatib said. "We appealed and worked for those five years through British lawyers to free them because we thought the British would not imprison anyone without a trial," he said.

"The security forces that keep the status quo in the Gulf countries are all trained by the British and the Americans... this is the Western contribution to democracy and human rights in our area," Dr. Khatib told his audience.

Although parliament was dissolved on a number of occasions since Kuwait was created in 1962, the longest and most recent closure came in 1986 after the lower house wanted to investigate the crash of the stock market that cost investors 20,000 million Kuwaiti dinars.

Subsequent to the dissolution of parliament, all political parties united to form a

coalition of pro-democracy movements which worked towards the re-establishment of some form of democratic life in the sheikhdom.

The confrontation between the political parties, which were and still are banned, came to a peak between December '89 and May 1990, when most of the movements' leaders were imprisoned.

The struggle for democracy was totally halted after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on Aug. 2, 1990, Dr. Khatib said.

The pro-democracy movement believes that those in power want to continue to oppress the return of a democratic form of life. "Seven months after the liberation the government still does not want the people to know why Kuwait was invaded and who was responsible for all that happened," he said.

"The mishandling of the crisis showed Kuwaitis how corrupt and inefficient the ruling family is and this was a boost for the pro-democracy movement," Dr. Khatib said.

The Kuwaiti army had not had enough ammunition to defend the country properly at the time of the invasion. They did not have enough ammunition because the Al Sabahs were always afraid of a coup d'état," Dr. Khatib said of his country's army.

Although in practice the emir seems to have indefinite and absolute powers, Dr. Khatib explained, constitutionally the ruler is very much obliged to hold consultations with and secure the approval of parliament in most issues.

The constitution of 1962 which is still in effect gives

the emir only the right to appoint a deputy, the right to nominate an heir and the right to nominate a prime minister.

The emir government of Kuwait continued to rule the emirate regardless of these constitutional restrictions of power and the legal power of parliament to accept or reject the emir's nominations, Dr. Khatib told the hearing.

With the army being manned increasingly by Saudi Arabian recruits and the secret service being trained by "Egyptian experts in methods of interrogation and torture," the effective opposition in Kuwait is being kept "in check," he said.

The unity of all the political parties, Dr. Khatib said, had held so far with one main exception: the Muslim Brotherhood.

"The Brotherhood have two members of their group in the current cabinet and are coordinating some of their activities with the Sabahs. So we have lost them as supporters of the pro-democracy movement," Dr. Khatib pointed out.

He said that many of the Palestinians that had fought the Iraqi occupation and been members of the Kuwaiti resistance had been jailed by the current government.

"I don't believe that a single Palestinian will be allowed to stay in Kuwait... not a single one."

the name of human rights and democracy," Dr. Khatib said.

While the leader of the Kuwait opposition did not say that he thought that Western governments were interested in the establishment of democratic rule in the Arab World in general and in the Gulf in particular, he said he appealed to the "ordinary people in the world to support the democratic movements."

Unity is growing among the members of the pro-democracy movements all over the Gulf states as well as Saudi Arabia, Dr. Khatib said. The increase in cooperation among the different movements could in part be traced back to an increased cooperation between the regional governments. "They are uniting against us... so we must unite against them in defence of our rights," Dr. Khatib said.

Asked about the plight of Palestinians and other non-Kuwaitis still in Kuwait, Dr. Khatib said that this was but one of many injustices occurring in Kuwait today.

"We, the pro-democracy movement, have issued statements condemning the injustices which many people in Kuwait, including the Palestinians, have had to suffer," Dr. Khatib said.

He said that many of the Palestinians that had fought the Iraqi occupation and been members of the Kuwaiti resistance had been jailed by the current government.

"I don't believe that a single Palestinian will be allowed to stay in Kuwait... not a single one."

Morocco said sending 16,000 refugees into Sahara ahead of vote

RABAT (R) — Morocco is sending more than 16,000 refugees back to Western Sahara to vote in a United Nations referendum early next year, the Rabat daily L'Opinion reported Saturday.

The paper, published by the opposition Istiglal Party, said 20,000 were already living in tents at Laayoun, the main town in the former Spanish colony. It said they were Western Sahara-born refugees who had fled to Morocco over the years.

The referendum is intended to settle a 15-year war. The United Nations has the responsibility of drawing up a voters list. Polisario guerrillas, who want independence, have accused Morocco of flooding the territory with people since a ceasefire four weeks ago.

A Spanish census, being used by the U.N. as the basis for the electoral rolls, counted 73,497 people in the mainly desert territory in 1974.

The Moroccan government has told Minurso, the U.N. mission, it has lists of 120,000 refugees eligible to vote in the referendum.

Polisario has told the U.N. there are over 141,000 refugees living in camps in the Tindouf area of Algeria and in what it calls "liberated territory."

Ibrahim Hakim, the Polisario's representative in Algiers, told a news conference Saturday there were now over 600,000 Moroccans in the territory, including 200,000 troops, 375,000 "settlers," and 30,000 "agents of repression."

"For every Saharan there are now more than eight Moroccans," he said. Morocco's armed forces total 200,000 including the army, navy and air force. Officials say 65,000 of them are in Western Sahara.

Mr. Hakim appealed to the U.N. Security Council to "halt Moroccan manoeuvres and notably the waves of humanity invading the territory," which he said were designed to ensure the referendum vote would be in Morocco's favour.

The influx of refugees reported by L'Opinion from a correspondent in Laayoun came after a large government mission arrived in Laayoun Thursday to "welcome Saharan citizens from all parts of the kingdom who have come to rejoin their brethren."

Diplomats said only a handful of the identification commission's 285 members have arrived so far in the territory. According to King Hassan of Morocco its work is months behind schedule.

The Casablanca daily Al Bayane reported Saturday that Polisario guerrillas were selling their arms including Kalashnikov assault rifles in parts of the Algerian desert between Reggane and Bordj Badj Mokhtar.

The paper said its report was based on information obtained by a Moroccan tourist, Said Lemlih, who visited southern Algeria recently.

The Algerian press has reported arms trafficking in the Algerian desert and accused Libya of supplying weapons to Tuareg rebels fighting in neighbouring Mali.

United Technologies and Sikorsky aircraft division are accused of bribing Saudi Arabian officials to win contracts to sell them Black Hawk helicopters and of evading U.S. restrictions on arms sales to the Saudis.

A United Technologies spokesman denied the allegations made in the lawsuit filed by a Sikorsky employee who contends he was deceived because he "would not go along with the scheme and because he sought to report his knowledge of the pattern of illegal payments and misconducts."

The federal lawsuit filed Friday by Thomas F. Dooley of Colorado Springs said the companies paid bribes through a Saudi businessman to two sons of Saudi Minister of Defence and Aviation Prince Sultan Ben Abdul Aziz.

The lawsuit also alleged that the companies got around U.S. limits on arms sales to the Saudis by buying part of Westland, a British firm which is licensed to make and sell Sikorsky Black Hawks. The suit said the Saudis are buying 90 Black Hawks, armed with anti-tank weapons, from Westland.

Sikorsky and United Technologies earned approximately \$2 billion last year at least in part as a result of the scheme, the suit alleged.

United Technologies Corporation (UTC) spokesman Martin Moore denied the allegations. Sikorsky's sales of 21 Black Hawks and supplemental services have all been conducted legally through the U.S. government's foreign military sales programme, Mr. Moore said.

Mr. Moore also denied the companies sold the Saudis additional helicopters through the Westland helicopter manufacturer in England, but conceded United Technologies has a financial stake in Westland and the

letter, Prince Sultan, was the only official able to choose whether to buy the Sikorsky aircraft, the lawsuit said.

UTC-Sikorsky decided to pay the bribes, disguised as maintenance support services, to a Saudi businessman who would pass along most of the money to two of Prince Sultan's sons, Prince Khalid Ben Sultan and Prince Fahad Ben Sultan, the suit said.

With the help of the bribes, the suit said, the company then received the contract for the first 13 Black Hawk helicopters, worth \$130 million, and led to Sikorsky gaining a \$40 million maintenance support services contract without competitive bidding.

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
12:40 Tripoli (LY)
14:05 Bahrain (GF)
18:30 Larnaca (CY)
20:35 Beirut (ME)

Other Flights (Terminal 1)
07:15 Beirut (RJ)
12:00 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
12:40 Istanbul (RJ)
14:05 Cairo (RJ)
18:30 Larnaca (CY)
20:35 Beirut (ME)

Other Flights (Terminal 1)
10:30 Jeddah (RJ)
10:45 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
11:00 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
11:30 Beirut (RJ)
18:40 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
10:10 Rome (AZ)

Somalia's new government sworn in, but tensions mount

NAIROBI (R) — A new broad-based government has been sworn into power in Somalia but opposition officials and diplomats say this is only likely to spark fresh fighting.

Spoke Radio said the government of 83 ministers and assistant ministers representing various clans was sworn into office late Thursday.

With armed youths from rival ethnic groups fighting street battles in the rubble-strewn capital of Mogadishu, the radio did not say where the swearing-in ceremony took place.

Interim President Ali Mahdi Mohammad, who was present at the ceremony, said the government had been drawn up in line with the resolutions of two peace conferences held in Djibouti earlier this year, the radio reported.

But Mr. Mohammad's military chief of staff, General Mohammad Farah Aideded, has refused to recognise the new cabinet.

Hundreds of people died in four days of fierce street fighting last month after Gen. Aideded demanded Mr. Mohammad's resignation.

The two leaders' factions are drawn from different sub-clans of the Hawiye-based united Somalia Congress, which has controlled Mogadishu since its forces ousted former dictator Mohammad Siad Barre in January.

Diplomats in Nairobi said the Hawiye clan controlled 40 per cent of the cabinet seats and this was likely to fuel further tension among the rival clans.

The new government does not include members of the northern clan-based Somalia National

Movement (SNM), which declared independence from the rest of the country in May. "With the situation as it is at the moment in Mogadishu, I don't see the SNM leadership wanting to return as things stand," Ismail Mohammad Hurreh, finance minister of the self-declared Republic of Somaliland, told Reuters in Nairobi.

Supporters of the new government have been holed up in safe houses in the north of the city — Mr. Mohammad's stronghold.

Siad Barre loyalist forces meanwhile are also reported to have advanced to within 180 kilometres of the capital from the former leader's western ethnic stronghold where he fled in January.

President Mohammad has promised he will try to unify the country again, as well as restore law and order in the capital and revive collapsed state institutions.

But diplomats in Nairobi said chances of the government ruling effectively in the present chaotic circumstances were slim.

Mr. Siad Barre, said in an interview published Saturday that his forces are moving on Mogadishu in a bid to retake the capital.

The English-language Arab News daily of Saudi Arabia quoted Mr. Siad Barre, a former soldier, as saying that he "was confident that he would return to Mogadishu in triumph."

But he said he does not want to rule his war-torn Horn of Africa country again.

Mr. Siad Barre said troops loyal to him are approaching Mogadishu from three directions.

Gates: Iran arms deal Israeli idea

WASHINGTON (R) — President George Bush's normally icy nominee or the U.S. spy-master has completed Senate hearings on his confirmation with shows of emotion — even anger — and outspokenly blamed Israel in part for the Iran-contra scandal.

Robert Gates's voice rose in mild anger Friday when he denied selective memory lapses on his role in the Iran-contra scandal.

He ended the hearing on his confirmation to be director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) with an emotional appeal to the Senate Intelligence Committee.

"I hope that this committee and the full Senate will see fit to return me once again to the agency I love and to which I dedicated my life a long time ago," he said.

The committee appeared likely to approve his nomination on Oct. 13, though most Democratic members said they still had concerns about Mr. Gates's character and past conduct.

Mr. Gates told the committee the faulty intelligence that led former President Ronald Reagan and his aides into the Iran-contra scandal came not from the CIA but from Israel.

"These guys were getting intelligence from somebody else and it wasn't from the United States," Mr. Gates said.

"What source would that be?" Democratic Senator Bill Bradley of New Jersey asked.

"Israel," Mr. Gates replied.

He said he believed Israel wanted to get arms to Iran during the Iran-Iraq war so it convinced Reagan aides that U.S. arms sales to Iran would increase U.S. influence there and win the release of American hostages in Lebanon.

In the ensuing scandal that shook Mr. Reagan's presidency, he approved the secret arms sales to Iran in 1985 and aides later diverted the proceeds to support Nicaraguan contra rebels in violation of a congressional ban.

The overriding question at the start of the Senate confirmation hearings two weeks ago was whether Mr. Gates knew more than he was saying about the Iran-contra scandal and whether he should have done more to stop it.

Mr. Gates won over many of the senators with a mea culpa in his opening statement that he should indeed have tried harder to investigate the diversion of Iran arms money to contras as soon as he heard the first "fuzzy" speculation on it.

He said he did, however, turn what little he knew over to then CIA Director William Casey and the White House.

Other CIA officials said they told Mr. Gates about the diversion earlier than he said and in much greater detail, but Mr. Gates said he simply could not recall those conversations.

Mr. Gates's voice rose in anger when Democratic Senator Howard Metzenbaum of Ohio said Friday that he was still bothered by the nominee's memory lapses.

"I'm a little annoyed at this idea of selective amnesia," Mr. Gates said. "I don't make any apologies about not remembering details of conversations five years ago."

The focus of the hearings changed this week when three former CIA officials accused Mr. Gates of twisting intelligence to

support the conservative views of Mr. Reagan and Mr. Casey.

Mr. Gates came back with a point-by-point rebuttal of 20 different allegations of slanting intelligence on subjects from Soviet power to Soviet involvement in the attempt to assassinate Pope John Paul in 1981.

"I never distorted intelligence to support policy or to please a policymaker," Mr. Gates said.

But several Democrats said they would have to study Mr. Gates's 20 rebuttals and Mr. Metzenbaum said he already believed some of them did not tell the whole story.

ISRAEL has announced that it has agreed to impose controls on its export of missile technology after discussions with the United States, which is funding Israel's development of an anti-ballistic missile system.

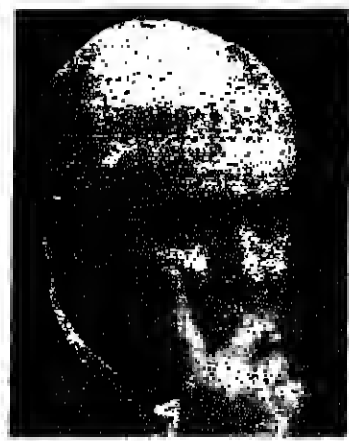
A defence ministry spokesman said that regulations are being drawn up for approval by the parliament that will bring Israel into conformance with the Convention for the Limitation of the Spread of Missile Technology.

The Tel Aviv daily Haaretz said Israel agreed to the controls only after strong pressure from the Bush administration, which reportedly threatened to curtail the lucrative business that Israel's defence industries do with the Pentagon if the government did not accept the convention.

The defence ministry spokesman said he knew of no such pressure.

Defence analysts here said Israel's compliance with the controls could prevent it from continuing missile projects it reportedly has been pursuing with South Africa and China.

Haaretz said that after discussions in Washington several weeks ago, defence ministry director General David Elvi warned the government that the issue threatened to touch off a new crisis in U.S.-Israeli relations. — The Washington Post.



Robert Gates

Israel agrees to impose curbs on missile technology exports

(A U.S. official confirmed in Washington that State and Defence department officials have cited the risk of Israeli missile technology transfers in seeking to bar Israel Aircraft Industries and other firms from competition for U.S. defence contracts or approval of import licences for military technology.)

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JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Deserts 17/29
Jordan Valley 23/33

Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 31, Aqaba 33. Humidity readings: Amman 48 per cent, Aqaba 33 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS
NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Hikmah Kassar 790286
Dr. Salim Al Dehoul 776751
Dr. Bassam Al Karadach 796200
Dr. Azar Al Ashbal 663989
First pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 773336
Al Azma pharmacy 670553
Naironk pharmacy 623672
Al Saban pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Simseini pharmacy 637660

AMMAN:
Dr. Ziad Al Aaraj 623101
Al Shairi pharmacy 272623

ZARQA:
Dr. Muna Taha 680100
Khalifah pharmacy 965417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 63041
Rescue 199
Recreation Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 843690
Public Security Department 63021
Hotel Complaints 603900
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Ammunition Municipality 623101
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Abdullah Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111

Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 615615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queca Air Int. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 613613/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 64281/6
Abdullah Maternity, J. Amn 64241/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsi 644714
Shamsi Hospital 669131
University Hospital 645945
Al-Mushtaq Hospital 66727/9
The Islamic, Abdali 66627/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 66416/46
Isfahan, Al-Mahjoub 77101/3
Al-Basul, J. Ashraf 77111/25
Army, Marka 69161/15
Queca Air Hospital 60240/50
ZARQA:
Zarga Govt. Hospital 09-983323
Zarga National Hospital 09-900360

For Sin Hospital 09-986732
Al Hana Modern Hospital 09-999998

IBED:
Prince Hassan Hospital 02-275555
Greek Catholic Hospital 02-272775
Rw Al Nafes Hospital 02-247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital 03-314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER
QUEEN ALIA
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department as the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. 02/53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

10:30 Jeddah (RJ)
10:45 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
11:00 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
11:30 Beirut (RJ)
18:40 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
10:10 Rome (AZ)

Other Flights (Terminal 1)
07:15 Beirut (RJ)
12:00 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
12:40 Istanbul (RJ)
14:05 Cairo (RJ)
18:30 Larnaca (CY)
20:35 Beirut (ME)

Other Flights (Terminal 1)
10:30 Jeddah (RJ)
10:45 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
11:00 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
11:30 Beirut (RJ)
18:40 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
10:10 Rome (AZ)

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Les Badabois
18:30 A la découverte de zenne continent
18:30 L'école des fans
19:00 News in French
19:15 Carnet de notes
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Golden Girls



ROYAL WELCOME — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday received at the Royal Court a delegation representing the British Royal Defence Studies College. The King briefed the delegation on efforts exerted to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict and stressed the need to reach a just and comprehensive settlement of the Palestine problem on the basis of international legitimacy. The meeting was attended by the Armed Forces chief of staff, the commander of the Royal Air Force, the King's military secretary as well as the British ambassador in Amman.

Visit to promote Jordanian, Iranian trade cooperation

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Jordanian industrial and trade delegation led by Khaldoun Abu Hassan, president of the Amman Chamber of Industry, will pay a visit to Iran on Oct. 8 to discuss scopes of boosting economic and trade relations between Jordan and Iran. The four-day visit is at the invitation of the president of the Iranian Chamber of Industry, Trade and Mining, said a Chamber of Industry statement. The statement said that the two sides will also explore the prospect of establishing Iranian and Jordanian trade centres in Amman and Tehran and organizing trade ex-

Tourism industry continues revival as more visitors arrive at Aqaba

AMMAN (J.T.) — The second group of European tourists arrived in the port city of Aqaba Saturday on a direct flight from Helsinki and tour operators expect at least 300 tourists to arrive at Aqaba weekly. Minister of Tourism Abdul Karim Kabariti expressed growing optimism that the groups will increase in number during this coming winter season. Mr. Kabariti said that the new group, which arrived for a week's stay, is composed of 190 tourists in the course of a programme organized by the Near East Tourist Agency (NET). The arrival of the tourist groups each week will revive the tourism industry and subsequently stimulate the national economy in all regions, said the minister in a statement quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra. He said the revival of the tourism industry in the Kingdom follows a long break that lasted throughout the Gulf crisis during which tourist traffic to Aqaba came to a halt. The minister attributed the success of the new tourism cycle to a visit by Her Majesty Queen Noor to Finland, where she presided over seminars and workshops to discuss tourism and to invite the European people to visit the Kingdom. Late last month, 100 tourists arrived in Aqaba on board a Royal Jordanian (RJ) aircraft at the start of the winter tourist season which continues until early summer. Mr. Kabariti last month revealed that his ministry was launching a wide-scale campaign to promote Jordan and was enlisting the assistance of local tour operators like NET and foreign tourist agencies to ensure its success. During the Gulf crisis, tourism to Aqaba was reduced to zero as all groups cancelled reservations.

Librarians conference set to open Sunday

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of 500 librarians from Jordan and the other Arab countries will gather at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) Sunday for a three-day conference to discuss library affairs and librarians' role in the coming decade. The conference, to be held under Royal patronage, also aims at creating a platform for librarians to promote their work in a manner that would meet the growing demands in the Kingdom, especially in socio-economic developmental fields, said Jordan Library Association (JLA) President Anwar Akroush. The meeting will also serve as an attempt to focus public attention in general and the decision makers in the country in particular on the need to promote the works of libraries as sources of information, culture and education and means for giving momentum to research work in all fields, Mr. Akroush said. The conference, which is organized by the JLA, review 20 working papers submitted by Jordanian and other Arab librarians, he said. These cover a range of topics from children's literature to teaching library science in Jordan, Mr. Akroush said. He said that the Iraqi Library Association will submit two working papers to the conference one of which deal with libraries' role in confronting the embargo. The first librarians conference was held in the Kingdom in 1965.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Arabyat receives Iranian official Prime Ministry advisor leaves seminar

AMMAN (Petra) — Lower House of Parliament Speaker Abdul Latif Arabyat received Saturday the Iranian charge d'affaires in Amman and discussed with him bilateral relations and ways of enhancing them. The meeting also discussed an international conference to be held in the Iranian capital, Tehran, to gather support for the Palestinian cause. Dr. Arabyat is expected to take part in the conference, due to start before the end of this month.

Cabinet approves appointment

AMMAN (Petra) — The cabinet approved Saturday the appointment of Salem Al Lawzi as secretary general of the Ministry of Agriculture as of Oct. 20. Dr. Lawzi had occupied the same post in the period between 1980 and 1989 and then worked as an advisor at the Prime Ministry. The appointment of Dr. Lawzi follows the retirement of the ministry's secretary general, Sami Al Summan, which takes effect Oct. 20.

Jordan to attend health conference

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan is taking part in the Council of Arab Health Ministers meeting in Tunis. Health Minister Mamdouh Al Abbadi heads the Jordanian delegation to the two days of meetings, which will discuss health situations in the Arab World, the food and medical embargo on Iraq and the health conditions in Jordan following the influx of large number of returnees into Jordan.

CNN to become available in Jordan

By Serene Halasa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan Radio and Television Corporation has signed an agreement with the American Cable News Network (CNN) to distribute the network's signal in Jordan through a new transmitting channel, said Rami Alkhas, the corporation's director general. So far, only four and five star hotels have received the services of CNN, completing the first phase of the agreement between the Jordanian and American sides, Mr. Alkhas said. He added that the second phase, which will be completed in the next two months, will provide institutions, companies, banks and embassies with the CNN service.

"Once we get the decoders, which will be in the next two months, we will provide the institutions with the services," Mr. Alkhas said. As for the third phase which involves providing the network's service to the public, Mr. Alkhas said that the process needs a lot of "preparation and work to gradually spread it around (the Kingdom)." "I can't give a date but we will make it possible for everyone as soon as we have made a feasibility study to see how much we will be charging (the subscribers)," Mr. Alkhas said. "We don't want to start something we can't continue." Mr. Alkhas said that he believed that the monthly charge would be roughly around JD 10, in addition to JD 400 to JD 500 for the installation of the decoder or descrambler. "The JD 400 to JD 500 for the descrambler can be paid in instalments over a period of time," Mr. Alkhas said.

Officials: Flow of Iraqis into Jordan declines

By Jamal Halaby
The Associated Press

AMMAN — The number of Iraqis in Jordan has fallen sharply in recent weeks because of residence permit restrictions and the reopening of Iraqi schools, officials said Saturday. Interior Minister Jawdat Al Sbuul said the Amman government controlled an influx of tens of thousands of Iraqis by imposing restrictions on their stay in the Kingdom. "The borders of this hospitable country are open for everybody, but our limited resources were exhausted and that forced us to control the flow of Iraqis into Jordan by imposing restrictions on their residence permits," Mr. Sbuul said in an interview. He explained that Jordan could not cope with the Iraqi flood because of plans to accommodate an estimated 285,000 Jordanians and

Palestinians who have streamed into the Kingdom recently after their expulsion from Kuwait and other oil-rich Gulf states. "Our primary concern is to secure adequate living conditions for our citizens," Mr. Sbuul said, referring to Jordanians returning from Gulf countries, which were angered by the Kingdom's sympathy with Iraq during the Gulf crisis. He said his ministry was only issuing one-month tourist passes for Iraqis and turning down applications for one-year residence permits. Mr. Sbuul said the measure, which was imposed in mid-August, applied to all Iraqis but excluded diplomats and businessmen. Tens of thousands of Iraqis have surged into Jordan since mid-May, when Baghdad eased travel restrictions. Many are on a short visit for reunions

with family members living outside the region. Others are collecting bank transfers from relatives abroad or applying for visas for Europe or North America. Western diplomats said their missions in Amman are deluged with Iraqis seeking visas but noted that few are granted. Jordan has been the only route out for Iraqis since October 1990, when the United Nations imposed a travel embargo against Baghdad to punish it for its invasion of Kuwait. Iraq's relations with neighbouring Turkey and Iran are strained and the border with Syria, Iraq's main Arab rival, has been closed for years. Mr. Sbuul said the number of Iraqis in Jordan does not exceed 30,000 people, half of the official figure registered in August and one-fifth the unofficial estimates obtained that same month.

An Iraqi diplomat, who insisted on anonymity, said his embassy noticed a sharp fall in the number of Iraqis here "because the summer break is over and Iraqis are rushing back home to enroll their children in schools, which have recently reopened." Jordanian Education Undersecretary Munther Masri told the Associated Press this week his ministry has turned down many applications of Iraqi citizens seeking to register their children in Jordanian schools. He said Iraqi students without a valid one-year residency permit cannot be granted places in Jordanian schools. "We have no spaces in our schools to spare for Iraqis, taking into consideration that more than 57,000 Jordanian and Palestinian students returning from the Gulf region have joined our schools this year," Mr. Masri said.

Committee begins work to avoid repetition of low tawjihi scores

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Ministry of Education committee has embarked on a study of the results of the tawjihi examinations of the past scholastic year in order to determine the causes behind the poor performance of students and ways of improving the results in the current year. The committee, chaired by Minister of Education Eid Dahiyat, decided that directors of education should hold periodic meetings with school principals and teaching staff as well as tawjihi students in order to discuss the issue and avoid a repetition of the low level grades in the 1990-1991 school year.

The committee also decided that the Ministry of Education open a special file for each teacher to monitor his or her performance at school and to determine whether teachers are responding to the requirements of improving the educational levels of students, according to a statement quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

It was decided at the meeting that the minister should meet with the committees who set the questions for the tawjihi students with special emphasis on English. Last July Dr. Dahiyat, announced the result of the tawjihi examinations for the 1990-1991 scholastic year. He said that the passing rate in all branches for regular students was 51.9 per cent. Dr. Dahiyat also announced Saturday that the Ministry of Education was contemplating certain measures designed to giving distinguished students further attention so as to help develop their talents. The measures are aimed at opening the way for the students to make distinguished achievements in their higher studies, the minister said. The measures, he added, entail among other things giving the students the chance to study subjects designed for classes higher than their own provided they had successfully completed the requirements of their own classes. Dr. Dahiyat earlier chaired a meeting by the Education Council to study broadlines of comprehensive education, domestic science, civics and military education in the secondary stage.

Exports of fruits and vegetables decline

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan's exports of fresh vegetables and fruit last month were worth JD 6.09 million, according to the Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO). An AMO statement said that a total of 37,700 tonnes of vegetables and fruits were sold, in September registering a drop of about 14,300 tonnes in comparison with the same period last year. Compared with the exports in August, September's total exports registered a decrease of 8,385 tonnes, especially of tomatoes and melons. According to the statement, in addition to tomatoes and melons Jordan's exports included cucumbers, pepper, cauliflower, cabbage, beans, egg plants, lemons and marrow. The statement said that Iraq imported 22.8 per cent of Jordan's exports last month.



PHOTO EXHIBITION: A photo exhibition featuring "Goethe Forest" in southern Jordan was opened at the University of Jordan Saturday by University President Fawzi Gharabeh. The exhibition, which was organized by the Goethe Institute in Amman in cooperation with the Faculty of Engineering and Technology, displays 45 enlarged photographs depicting scenes from Goethe Forest at Dana, located between Tafleh and Shobak in southern Jordan. They were taken by renowned German photographer Siegfried from Munich. A Royal decree was issued in 1967 naming the forest as Goethe Forest in appreciation of the German expert's efforts, who helped plant the forest trees in the region. The exhibition will last until Oct. 9.

The Phoenix — a place where man can fly?

By Abdullah Hassanat
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Can man fly? Yes, though he needs no wings. Man flies in his imagination. Through the use of the arts — fiction, painting, poetry and the like — man can soar into unknown skies and over uncharted grounds. Only through such stands into the unknown can man satisfy an old dream, to fly. And thus a group of young people have started the Phoenix, a cafe-theatre gallery for which they hope to attract gifted artists to experiment, exhibit, read and perform. The entrepreneurs, Mohammad Masharqah, Saad Dabbah and Munir Hourani, are all expatriates who had been working in different fields at various locations in the Middle East and Europe. "We are against alienation, estrangement and isolation," they declare in the pamphlet introducing the Phoenix. "We appreciate the past (but) at the same time ground ourselves in the future." "We received lots of encouragement from Jordanian artists and literary figures," says Mr. Masharqah, 34, who studied sociology in Yugoslavia and worked as a journalist in Greece. Mr. Masharqah, who chose to spend the last 15 years studying and working abroad, says he has always had the urge to return home. "The years in the diaspora were hard," he says. "I had at last to come home and settle." Mr. Hourani, 30, another partner, is a civil engineer-turned novelist. He has already published two novels. Ms. Dabbah, the third partner, is a TV producer broadcaster with Abu Dhabi TV. The Phoenix, named after a legendary Semite bird, is a 400-square metre ground floor section in a newly built building along the Gardens Road. It comprises two sections for guests, a raised stage and hangars for paintings. According to Mr. Masharqah, the gallery will host paintings year round. On Wednesday evenings, the Phoenix will host poets and writers to recite their works and hold discussions with the audience. Also on Wednesdays, they intend to host architects to "create a bridge between the architect and the inhabitants." The first talk in this series will be held on Oct. 23 and the topic will be "Amman and People." On Thursdays, the Phoenix will host performing artists and musicians. And on Fridays it will host a "Children's Experimental Arts Club." "Ours is a humble attempt to establish an authentic, effective cultural movement," say the founders. "We want our space to be the gathering place for innovators, to relax, interact and discuss." The Phoenix opened its doors yesterday.

Excavation work begins into writings on Citadel stones

By Elias Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Excavation work at the Citadel (Jabal Al Qalaa) in Amman received further momentum Saturday when archaeologists turned over huge stones, which fell in 748 A.D., in order to find out if they were carved or inscribed. During the latest excavation season, a number of stones which fell from the front of the Roman Temple of Hercules and its sacred precinct at the site were found lying face down in front of the temple. They had fallen in the earthquake that took place in 748 A.D. "We discovered that the fallen stones bore inscriptions in Greek citing the dedication of the temple to the emperors Marcus Aurelius Antoninus and Lucius Aurelius Verus (between) AD 161-169 during the governorship of Julius Geminius Marcianus," said Dr. Safwan Al Tell, director general of the Department of Antiquities which is conducting the

excavation work at the ancient site. "The current excavations at the temple precinct are being conducted by the Department of Antiquities aided by students from Jordan Universities and the project is being funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)," Dr. Tell said in a statement to the Jordan Times. A number of nations, he said, are participating in the implementation of the plan which includes the creation of an archaeological park. Dr. Tell said that excavations on the site date back to 1928; they were conducted by an Italian team of archaeologists who worked there until 1938. He added that World War II halted the work of the Italians. However, some publications with incomplete information appeared in Italy later on. According to Dr. Tell, two Spaniards, specialists in art history conducted further excavations at the site and other ancient sites in Jordan. Antonio Almagro and his

father Martin conducted restoration work on the frescoes at the Umayyad desert castle Qusayr Amra, 70 kilometres, east of Amman, and worked on the Umayyad palace on Jabal Qalaa. "We had hoped to find out the name of the goddess to which the temple was dedicated, but all we found were the names of the emperors," Dr. Tell said. USAID had allocated \$600,000 for the project and its programme is being managed by the American Center of Oriental Research (ACOR). The project also entails reconstruction of the Temple of Hercules. The directors of this component are Alexander Papanicolaou, architect, and Chrysanthos Kanellopoulos, archaeologist. As of August 1991, the reconstruction is in the preliminary study phase. All architectural elements which have been located are being studied so that the architecture of the temple may be understood.

WHAT'S GOING ON

- ### EXHIBITIONS
- ★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artists Muhammad Husein Juddi (copper engravings) and Sahib Al Yasiri (ceramics) at Alia Art Gallery.
 - ★ Exhibition entitled "Goethe Forest" at the Department of Science and Technology of the University of Jordan. The exhibition consists of 45 pictures of the forest which is located in Dana between Tafleh and Shobak.
 - ★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artists Ibrahim Rashid and Mahdi Abdul Karim at the British Council.
 - ★ Comprehensive book exhibition at Yarmouk University.
- ### FILM
- ★ Frank Capra's film "It Happened One Night" at the American Centre — 7:30 p.m.

By Dr. Fahd Al Fanek

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

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GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

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Sunday's Economic Pulse

How to promote new investments

THE repeated calls for the encouragement of the private sector to make new investments is quite understandable. First because the financial position of the government does not allow the public sector to shoulder the large burden of financing new investments as was the case a decade ago. Second, because the Jordanian economy is in bad need to achieve positive growth and create new jobs to cope with the prevailing high rate of unemployment. This could not come about except through successful private investments.

However, new private investments could not be realised by means of mere publicity or the emotional appeal based on national sentiments. This method proved to be a complete failure when we convened expatriates conference in Amman and performed what we called investment demonstrations among the Jordanian community working in the Gulf states. Publicity and appeals suggest to the potential investor that he is being led to a trap or to make a sacrifice. They are counterproductive.

New investments may be undertaken only when feasibility and profitability of projects are convincing. Although investors are usually outspoken about their national role in creating exports, earning foreign exchange and generating jobs that accommodate

so many families, they don't actually care too much about these economic and social services. All those are byproducts or externalities achieved by the investors in their efforts to make money and a higher return on their paid up capital.

The question therefore is: Where are the opportunities for profitable investments? This is a crucial question that the government cannot and should not reply. First, because the government does not know and, second, because its guidance in the investment field lacks credibility in the eyes of the public. The government did encourage many projects in the past which proved to be a failure and needed either continuous flow of subsidies or liquidation.

Only the serious investor can identify the available opportunities for feasible investment. What is good for a type of investor may not be good enough for another. Only the potential investor knows what technical and managerial skills he has, the size of his capital and the type of risks he is ready to take. In fact no one of the successful investments in the country was presented to the owners on a silver platter.

Any investor can of course seek more information and advice from experts and consultants of his choice, to evaluate content-

plated projects. But perhaps the last source an investor would like to consult with is the specialised governmental departments which give him the impression that he is wanted to get involved no matter what. In this respect, it may be appropriate to reiterate the obvious; that a loss to an investor is not only a personal loss, it is a national loss as long as there are better alternative opportunities for the investment of the capital.

In any case, one should not ignore the existing problems and bottlenecks that face potential investments in the country, such as instability and uncertainty in the whole region of the Middle East, the small size of the domestic market, lack of timely information, the acute scarcity of water, the near absence of the natural resources and the possible future difficulties in the availability of foreign exchange due to the heavy burden of external debt service in case the government decides to resume repayment.

The present and the foreseen circumstances in the region will definitely create thousands of investment opportunities in Jordan. The role of the government is not to make publicity, issue appeals, or find out and package investments. Its role is to remove hurdles, reduce unnecessary intervention in the market and reduce rigidity and distortions.

Rational debate necessary

IN THE days leading up to the Oct. 10 National Conference and in the weeks and months that will follow it Jordanians should nurture a national debate on the terms and objectives of peace efforts and Arab-Israeli negotiations as a whole. The Jordanian national conference is expected to be modelled on last June's peoples' meeting that adopted the National Charter and as such it will be a faithful reflection of the mood of the country on the upcoming peace talks in the Middle East. As the Parliament is in recess until November, the discussions over the eventual peace talks between Israel and the concerned Arab parties would have to be conducted at the grassroots level and on the basis of the King's report to the country on Oct. 10.

Yet in order to make any such national deliberations credible and productive, they need to be pursued and conducted on the basis of a well articulated agenda where the relevant issues are clearly defined. The country and the kind of negotiations that are in the pipeline can ill-afford a free for all or a shooting-of-the-breeze kind of academic exercise that would not advance the chances for a permanent and just peace in the region. As the negotiations between the two sides would be tortuous and complex anyway, no one in his right mind could expect the government to expose all its cards in advance or spell out its final position on any set of disputes between Jordan and Israel in particular.

What also needs to be kept in proper perspective is Amman's role in the impending peace talks. It is a cardinal principle in the Arab stance vis-a-vis the peace talks with Israel that each concerned Arab country would concentrate first and foremost on its own respective conflict with Israel, leaving the negotiations on the Palestinian conflict to the Palestinians and their representatives in the peace conference. This is something that needs to be made very clear at the outset of the ensuing national debate on the peace terms with Israel. Otherwise, there will be an overlapping debate on the Palestinian case with others trying, wittingly or unwittingly, to juxtapose their own interpretation of what is acceptable and what is not on the Palestinians' own inter dialogue and soul searching as reflected in the recent Palestine National Council (PNC)'s Algiers meeting. So before a Pandora's box is opened, it is imperative that the roles of each Arab party to the prospective peace talks be well defined and outlined. The Arab parties will have to respect this delineation of duties among themselves even though at the end of the tunnel a comprehensive peace treaty must be arrived at where every draft Arab-Israeli peace treaty would be made contingent on the successful resolution of the other remaining Arab-Israeli disputes. The approaching Damascus meeting between the concerned Arab parties to coordinate and synchronise their tactics as well as their strategies could very well be the forum to air out all such issues in order to render them more intelligible for the Arab masses.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i Arabic daily attacked the Western countries because of the inhuman treatment of the 18 million people of Iraq, starving them and imposing on them endless sufferings. The paper also described the Arab World as showing indifference to the sufferings of their kinsmen in Iraq and said that the Arab regimes are surrendering to the whims and the will of the Western colonialist and racist nations in their dealings with the Arab Nation. The Western nations are bent on massacring the Iraqi children and do not give any consideration to the Arab World and its Muslim and Christian inhabitants, the paper noted. Western nations are now involved in discovering the Iraqi scientific secrets and studying Iraqi nuclear documents at a time when the Iraqi women and children are facing starvation and diseases because of the embargo, the paper said. The colonialists are committing crime before the whole world as the Arab regimes do nothing in protest nor do they take any step to save the lives of the innocent people, the paper added. It expressed confidence that despite the present hardships, the Iraqi people will come out victorious over the actions of the "pirates and robbers and the racists." The paper said that the Western nations are now busy pillaging the Arab wealth, imposing their hegemony on the Arabs and finding real joy in killing the innocent children. It said these actions constitute a flagrant violation of the same international laws and principles which these countries claim they are upholding and defending.

Al Dustour daily described the ongoing Jordanian-Palestinian talks as assuming paramount importance, especially as they come in advance of the projected peace conference. One does not imagine that Palestine can have views different from Jordan and the rest of the confrontation states at such conference which is bound to determine the region's future for the coming generations, said the paper. All the Arab parties are in agreement over the need of having a durable peace based on complete Israeli withdrawal, an end to Israeli settlement programmes and the recognition of the Palestinian people's rights in their own homeland, the paper said. This being the case, said the paper, the Arab countries should reach a unified formula that would be placed on the negotiating table and one which can safeguard the rights of the Arab parties in general and the Palestinians in particular. The paper said the coming meeting in Damascus by representatives of Jordan, the PLO, Syria, Lebanon and Egypt, is urgently required to streamline the different stands and to pool the Arab countries' efforts vis-a-vis the peace conference. The paper said that such a meeting is bound to give momentum to the Arab Nation's drive to regain its usurped rights and enhance solidarity among the Arab countries. What the five Arab parties need, said the paper, is a serious action and joint stand to deal with the coming stage.

Lies on the ground

By John Ross & Norman Solomon

The following is the last in a 4-part series of a working paper presented at the International Seminar on News Coverage During the Time of War: Objectivity and the Role of Journalists, held in Amman, Sept. 28-30, 1991. John Ross, Pacific News Service and San Francisco Examiner correspondent in Latin America, has covered guerrilla wars in the Andes and social conflicts in Central America and Mexico. He recently returned from a human rights fact-finding tour of Kuwait. Norman Solomon coordinates the peace desk for the media watch group FAIR, based in New York City.

SOON after the Gulf war began, Time magazine defined "collateral damage" as meaning "dead or wounded civilians who should have picked a safer neighbourhood."

In U.S. news media, the rare mention of civilian casualties was usually followed by immediate denial of responsibility. "We must point out again and again that it is Saddam Hussein who put these innocents in harm's way," news anchor Tom Brokaw declared on General Electric's NBC Network colleague Dennis Murphy, finishing a report on the Iraqi government's video evidence of civilians victims, put forward a common conclusion: "Until we get some Western reporters and photographers in there to vouch for it, I think we'll have to call it propaganda." On CBS, reporter Ron Allen said that "Iraq is trying to gain sympathy" by showing grisly film of bombed civilian sites. Connie Chung chimed in that President Saddam Hussein was "trying to break the resolve of the United States and its allies."

The mass media inversion was automatic. Despite the savage and continuous bombings of populated areas in Iraq, it was the U.S. that had to be portrayed as the miscreant party. Thus the swollen face of a captured American pilot appeared on the cover of Newsweek and on many newspaper front pages. Although he had been dropping bombs on an innocent civilian population, Jeffrey Zahed had become the victim.

As wide areas of Iraq and Kuwait were incessantly shattered by the bombings with no more justification than the occasional Scud missiles landing in Israel, the few Iraqi victims of the attacks received extensive and sympathetic news coverage in the United States. Several weeks into the war, only a handful of Israelis had been injured in the blasts, but their wounds were attended to on international TV.

prepared to expect a real fight from Mr. Saddam Hussein's supposedly fearsome army.

As the cakewalk continued on to Kuwait City, the press broke into a frenzied victory dance that culminated in the horrific massacre of a reported 26,000 retreating Iraqi troops at Al Mutha ridge on the Kuwait to Basra highway. February 25th-26th. CNN video caught U.S. pilots returning to aircraft carriers in the Gulf, gloating over "shooting fish in a barrel" and labelling the killing a "turkey shoot" (New York Times, Feb. 28, 1991). "We shall never know how many died out there in the desert," the newly canonised U.S. Commander Norman Schwarzkopf responded to a timid question at a cease-fire press conference (Los Angeles Times, March 3, 1991), and the human cost of the war was pursued no further by the corporate media brought in at Pentagon's expense to sanitise the opening phase of Mr. George Bush's New World Order.

For the press, the euphoria of victory did not last long enough. Now Sabab-directed death squads roamed newly-liberated Kuwait City while 60 miles north, Iraqi Shiites seized upon Mr. Saddam Hussein's indisposition and rose against Baghdad. While the Shiite revolt got reduced attention in the U.S. press, reporters who got too close to the battlelines risked capture or death, a hazard that was eminently illustrated when the New York Times' Chris Hedges and other journalists were taken prisoner March 5th — the plight of the Kurds in the north momentarily captivated U.S. attention. Like a National Geographic documentary, the rather picturesque exodus of those beleaguered people flickered across U.S. screens. But the suffering tended to dampen the glow of victory in which the Bush White House was basking, and looked even more disconcerting when it was played against the front page homecomings for tens of thousands of returning troops.

As spring broke across America, the nation was festooned with patriotic hunting. The dread Vietnam Syndrome had been conquered and the U.S. felt good about itself again, pontificated the president to the blare of brass bands and the unfurling of foot-

The case of Mr. Kay: IAEA aspires to become N. club usher

By Joseph Brewster

A specialist in limiting sovereignty

EIRNS — With world attention focused on whether or not President George Bush will again go to war with Iraq — this time over the "kidnapping" of a nuclear inspection team led by David Kay — observers might ask themselves if Hollywood script writers have indeed taken over Washington. On Monday, Mr. Bush proclaimed the advent of "Pax Universalis" in his speech to the U.N., which, we are informed, was brought into being through the genocidal war against Iraq. Under this new version of the old "Roman peace," sovereignty of nations, particularly small nations, will be strictly limited. Mr. Bush's speech had been preceded by a contrived crisis, which the U.S. government had created over its attempts to fly helicopters over Iraqi air space without restriction. Now, as we write, the issue of Iraq "defying world opinion" is not allowing an U.N. linked inspection team to remove personnel records from an Iraqi ministry, sets the stage for renewed conflict.

The target here is not just Iraq, but all former colonial states.

Typically, the U.S. media, and the U.S. State Department, have denounced statements by Iraqi Foreign Minister Ahmad Hussein on ABC's "Nightline" and by Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz, that the leader of the inspection team was directing an intelligence mission. "Ridiculous" is the official response of the State Department to Mr. Aziz's charges that Mr. David Kay is a CIA agent. Oddly, the State Department seems to have forgotten to report that Mr. Kay has worked for the State Department, even according to the public record. In fact, information in any public library shows that Mr. Kay's professional background is suggestive of the Iraqi charge, even were one to ignore the provocation and media-extravaganza now being directed by the White House.

With all the hub-bub surrounding Mr. Kay's inspection mission to Iraq supposedly to evaluate Iraq's nuclear programme, one might naively assume Mr. Kay is a physicist or nuclear engineer. He is not. His only academic degree is in "political science" from Columbia University in New York back in 1967. His specialty is the effectiveness of international organisations in imposing international regulations on nations, often against their will. With such a specialisation it is not surprising that immediately following graduation Mr. Kay found employment as an adviser to the U.S. State Department working at the U.S. mission to the U.N. His specialty for the State Department at the time was also "international organisation affairs," according to his current employer, the International Atomic Energy Agency.

By 1972, Mr. Kay was back in the academic world at the University of Wisconsin. But he had not lessened his ties to Washington. In that year, Mr. Kay hooked up with U.N. official Maurice Strong, to organise a U.N. conference on the environment, held in Stockholm, Sweden. The main purpose of that 1972 conference was to assert that "environmental concerns" supercede "national sovereignty." That, and related themes, dominate Mr. Kay's book, entitled "World Eco Crisis: International Organisations and Response," whose introduction was written by Mr. Strong.

Mr. Strong, a former Canadian government official is no stranger to the spook world. He is currently organising a successor conference to the one in Stockholm, now scheduled for Brazil in 1992. Already, Brazilian military officers have declared that the purpose of the new conference, "Eco 92," is to provide the pretext for seizing the Amazon. They say that the war on Iraq was intended to set the stage for similar wars against other Third World states, including their own. They also note that the U.N.'s sudden "concern" over the alleged repression of primitive Indian tribes in the Amazon forests is quite comparable to the U.N.'s professed concern over the alleged repression of the Iraqi Kurds.

In 1975, Mr. Kay left his university to work for the curious American Society of International Law, where he was director of "International Organisation Research." Under this capacity, he received a U.S. government grant to study the effectiveness of the U.N. in managing the international trade in pharmaceuticals. In 1977, Mr. Kay edited "Changing U.N. options for the U.S.," published by Praeger press of New York, a publishing house long exposed as a CIA front.

In 1978, Mr. Kay became a senior evaluation officer, at the United Nations' Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), where he was involved in the same type of studies.

Mr. Kay (was) in Iraq as a

(Continued from page 5)

The importance of Islam in Soviet Central Asia

By Godfrey Jansen

SCHOLARS on Islam and politics from both East and West have confidently predicted that if and when the Soviet Central Asian republics achieve real independence from the Soviet Union they might emerge as born-again Muslims. But in the event this is unlikely to happen for a variety of reasons.

First, such speculation on the rise of "Muslim power" in this area was a Cold War tactic — wishful thinking, on the one hand, and scaremongering on the other. The titles of books published on the subject show just how far this tactic went: The Islamic Threat to the Soviet State and Moscow's Muslim Challenge, to name but two.

Second, Central Asian Islamic activism is quite unlike the pan-Islamic fundamentalism which has grown up in the Arab World. Although there have been enough manifestations of Islamic dissidence in Central Asia for President Gorbachev to complain

that fundamentalism had "bared its teeth," notably in Tashkent, the Uzbek capital, these demonstrations were motivated more by nationalist and ethnic feelings than Islam. Under Russian rule, Islam became the major symbol and expression of the identity, pride and national integrity of the peoples of the Central Asian republics. Therefore when rule from Moscow is removed and the republics gain true independence, Islam could cease to be a force for rallying the populace and the Islamic content of their nationalism should be reduced.

Third, once Soviet pressure for Russification is removed, the peoples of Central Asia should revert to personal Islam, renouncing public political Islam. It is clear that the Soviets used Russification to try and weaken and destroy the hold of Islam on these people and that this strategy, applied over more than half a century, has not worked. According to official figures, only some 20 per cent of Soviet Central Asians were counted as

atheists. Having identified Islam as the obstacle to progress in converting the Central Asians, the Soviet authorities kept careful records on the religious observances of their Muslim subjects. Thus, of Islam's five pillars, only the Shahada, the confession of faith, has been universally accepted (largely so that ritual circumcision ceremonies could be performed). As far as the other four pillars were concerned, daily prayers were offered by 30 per cent, 40 per cent observed the Ramadan fast, the younger people for only three days of the month, and few Central Asians went on the Haj or made their charitable contribution, Zakat, to the religious authorities because every sort of official obstacle was put in the way of meeting these obligations.

How Islam survived

These figures confirm that Islam, as a force in society, has survived decades of repression. In particular it has survived through the strong familial ties

which are the norm in the Central Asian republics. Islam has also survived because of the Sufi brotherhoods or tariqas, notably the Naqshbandi and Qadiriya, which stress the relationship of the worshipper with God, the personal aspect of Islam. These brotherhoods were deeply rooted and well organised and were strengthened by persecution. They could be expected to surge forward and claim new members once permitted to operate freely in society — on the plane of private piety rather than that of public Islam. Thus the focus of the Muslim believer would be internal and self-centred rather than external and socially oriented.

Even if some activist, born-again groupings with ambitions of external leadership do emerge, it is unlikely that they would have any great impact on the rest of the Muslim world. This is because the republics are remote and inaccessible to the Muslim heartland of the Middle East and south

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LETTERS

Law for landlords?

To the Editor:

HAVING read Penelope Goldspink's letter "Landlord ethics" (Jordan Times issue of 26-27 September), I can not but support what she said about some landlords who took advantage of the current delicate and extremely difficult housing situation to make money by imposing their own conditions on tenants.

Motivated by their lust for money they tried to exploit the current housing crisis, caused by the forcible return of hundreds of thousands of their Jordanian brothers and sisters, and the influx into the country of thousands of Iraqis, by demanding high rents and an increase in the rent of apartments or houses already occupied. By doing so, this group of people turned a deaf ear to an appeal made by His Majesty King Hussein, not to take advantage of their fellow resources, who lost everything they worked for in Kuwait and other countries in the Gulf.

These practices on the part of some greedy landlords should be properly dealt with, by passing a law safeguarding the public interest rather than narrow personal interests. The current being abused by a handful of people who place their limited personal interests above the country's interests.

Jahid Al Anzab, Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

King meets PLO delegation

(Continued from page 1)
date or venue had been fixed.
"No dates have been set and a lot depends on what happens in the next couple of weeks as to whether such a conference will take place" this month, he told reporters.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said prospects for convening a conference at the end of the month were good but obstacles remained.

The Palestine National Council (PNC) voted last month to back the talks but stopped short of saying whether Palestinians would take part.

Mr. Arafat, who urged Israel's Arab neighbours to coordinate their positions before any peace talks, said the questions of Jerusalem, Palestinian representation

at the talks and Jewish settlement in the Israeli-occupied territories remained vague.

He said Washington had made some movement towards the Palestinian position, but added: "It wants to impose the Israeli conditions on us. An American delegation told our delegation, during one meeting: 'All the Arabs have been defeated, not just Iraq, so you ought to submit to Israel's conditions.'"

The Palestinians want a halt to Jewish settlement before the conference begins and the right to choose who they want to represent them. They also want assurance that the status of Jerusalem will not be ignored in the talks.

Israel refused to deal with anyone from the PLO or anyone from Arab East Jerusalem.

Constitution Bloc upset

(Continued from page 1)
fiscian by saying that the incorporation of the Constitution Bloc might have created more problems than it could have solved and that those ministers/deputies who have left the cabinet will not necessarily oppose it.

While the source had confirmed that consideration was given to incorporating members of the bloc into the cabinet this time around "it was decided that the time was not opportune for complete government restructuring along the traditional lines."

The bloc's statement, however, criticised the premier's decision to carry out a limited reshuffle and charged that Mr. Masri had repeated the hasty approach he used in forming his government in June.

"Prime Minister Taher Masri has used the same method in his last reshuffle that he used when he formed his government. Although he is the first prime minister who is also parliamentarian, he bypassed a number of political forces and has left some others with no choice but to reject (participation)," the statement charged.

The Constitution Bloc ac-

used Mr. Masri's government of "losing its credibility" since it was formed because, it maintained, it was not a "negotiations government while it was moving in that path."

"It also lacked the sense of solidarity of the one team and has overlooked most of the political forces in the country," the statement added.

Jordan, the bloc's statement said, while facing several internal economic pressures — the Gulf crisis, Israel's growing strength, the unilateral hegemony of one superpower — is also struggling with internal economic pressures including poverty, unemployment and lack of resources.

"This country — more than at any other time, needs to unite its ranks and its statements, to strengthen its hand in handling the proposed peace solutions (to the Arab-Israeli conflict) and to utilise the diverse opinions (in the country) to consolidate the Jordanian stand," the statement said.

Government officials were not available to comment on the Constitution Bloc's statement.

Jardaneh: No dinar devaluation

(Continued from page 1)

IMF are aimed at reducing Jordan's budget deficit through cutting expenditure and raising revenues.

The suggestions include a moratorium on increases in government salaries and creation of new jobs in the civil service.

The draft contained the government views on the IMF recommendations which also include increases in fuel prices and electricity, irrigation water and long-distance telephone charges.

Subsidy for basic foodstuff now extended through a coupon system will be righted to further ensure that only the deserving sectors actually benefit, according to the sources.

"The IMF recommended a total removal of subsidies, but the government reserves the option to make up for the expected saving through other measures," said one of the sources.

According to a senior Jordanian source, the draft document "is not a final agreement. We are studying all options and will continue our discussions with the IMF."

The draft will be placed before the board of directors of the IMF for approval, which is expected to produce an as yet unknown amount of low-term loan to help

the Kingdom's balance of payments.

In the meantime, however, Jordan has to reflect the suggested measures in its fiscal budget. Analysts believe that the 1992 budget will reflect an increase in the deficit, but long-term measures implemented by the government will be satisfactory to the IMF as long as the results are shown in 1992 performance.

Jordan needs to secure an IMF-World Bank agreement before it can resume negotiations on foreign debt rescheduling with the Paris Club of creditor government and the London Club of commercial institutions.

Diplomatic sources have affirmed that most Western governments had signalled their readiness to reschedule the Kingdom's debts.

"But, Jordan will be on its own when it comes to discussions with the London Club," commented a Western diplomat. "This is an area where the governments can be of little help."

Jordan's economic performance will also be discussed further at a meeting of the World Bank in Bangkok later this month. Mr. Jardaneh or Planning Minister Ziad Fariz is expected to lead the Jordanian delegation to the meeting in the Thai capital.

Likud committee said ready to accept curb on settlement

(Continued from page 1)

once, at 10 a.m.
Mr. Nir said he stood by it but that it had not been repeated because Israel Radio has a policy of not airing opinion polls.

"I had a dispute with my superiors whether this, an internal survey, was an opinion poll," Mr. Nir told Reuters.

A source at Israel Radio who asked he not be named said the report was dropped after Ehud Barak, Likud chairman of the parliamentary foreign affairs and defence committee, called the radio and complained.

No government or Likud officials were available for comment.

Israeli peace activists reported Saturday that a new Jewish settlement was under construction in the occupied West Bank despite American protests that such actions obstruct efforts to convene Middle East peace talks.

Eran Hayet, a spokesman for the "Peace Now" group, said that while he was not sure about the city of Hebron, Saturday morning, he saw five double mobile homes in place.

Mr. Hayet accused the government of making "a last desperate attempt to torpedo" planned peace talks with Arab countries.

The United States has frequently rebuked Israel for settlement building in the occupied territories, saying it obstructs peace efforts. U.S. Secretary of State James Baker is working to convene a peace conference this month, but no date has been set.

Finance Minister Yitzhak Mordechai confirmed on army radio Saturday that Israel was continuing to build settlements in the occupied territories.

"There is no doubt that the Israeli government's policy is to settle the occupied territories, although not with immigrants, — to thicken and increase settlement in the territories," Mr. Mordechai said.

"You cannot expect that while elsewhere in Israel we increase housing construction four or fivefold that in the territory which is subject to a very difficult political dispute, (construction) will lag behind," he added.

Israel has built more than 130 Jewish settlements in the occupied territories, housing some 100,000 Israelis.

Mr. Hayet said the newest settlement was about a mile from the small Mezer settlement where fewer than

100 ultra-orthodox Jewish families live.

Both are perched on hilltops north of Hebron.

The Israeli-made mobile homes were moved in since Thursday and about 20 workers were clearing ground apparently so more could be placed, Mr. Hayet said. He estimated that the homes at the new site cost the Israeli government \$2.5 million.

Plans for other new settlements were reported by Israeli media on Friday, including 26 Jewish housing sites in East Arab Jerusalem.

Mr. Mordechai said Saturday Israel would not accept \$10 billion in U.S. loan guarantees if the Bush administration imposed political conditions.

A senior U.S. official said last month a decision on the guarantees could be linked to Israel's settlement policy.

"We've already announced that we will not accept the guarantees with political conditions," Mr. Mordechai told army radio.

The Bush administration officially won a first skirmish with Israel over the guarantees Wednesday when Congress said it would bow to the president's demand they not be acted on for 120 days.

Mr. Bush wanted Israel to delay its request to help him convene Arab-Israeli peace talks. When Israel refused, Mr. Bush threatened to veto the guarantees unless Congress agreed to the four-month moratorium.

Mr. Mordechai said he expected the guarantees would be granted, without strings, after the four-month moratorium but if they were not Israel could manage.

"(Israel will be) in a more difficult situation than if there weren't further delays but it will cope," he said.

With the guarantees, Israel could obtain foreign financing on favourable terms to absorb Soviet immigrants. More than 300,000 Soviet Jews have arrived since 1989. As many as one million are expected by the mid-1990s.

Prime Minister Shamir Friday accused Arab countries of paying "lip service" to the proposed Middle East peace conference and of dreaming to destroy Israel.

But he predicted the conference being arranged by the United States would likely convene this month and restated Israel's readiness to participate.

Lies on the ground

(Continued from page 4)

ball-field-sized flags. In the wake of the prime-time patriotic deluge that radiated from monster homecoming parades in New York and Washington in June, the misery inflicted upon the Kurds, the destruction of Iraq, the burning of the Kuwaiti oil fields, and the vengeance unleashed against the Palestinians in that newly-free land, were soon swept from the screen.

"The attention span of U.S. mass media, and the audience it services, is notoriously short. By summer, the war and its aftermath were already stale news. Despite United Nations reports of apocalyptic damage inflicted upon the Iraqi infrastructure and the dispatch of blue-ribbon missions to calculate the dimensions of hunger and disease in that ravaged republic, many Americans were now more concerned with the very real problems from which the success of Desert Storm was designed to divert them — an economic recession

that military victory did not vanquish, deepening government scandal, savage street violence, rampant drug addiction, and the disaffection of the nation's black and brown communities.

"Despite the occasional video of billowing black oil fires, the Gulf has faded fast from view. When blue-ribbon commissions returned from a devastated Iraq, armed with predictions of imminent plague and famine, their reports had little resonance. Martial law trials in Kuwait and the relentless persecution of the Palestinian community there have moved to the very back of the book. The collective glories of the U.S.-led devastation are now reduced to file footage to be rolled out at year-end reviews. Little more than a year after Iraqi troops marched into Kuwait and six months after the New World Order 'liberated' that tiny nation, the lies with which the White House and its corporate media accomplices manipulated the American public are disappearing beneath the desert sands."

The case of Mr. Kay

(Continued from page 4)

representative of the IAEA, nominally to examine Iraq's nuclear programme. But what are the formal IAEA descriptions of Mr. Kay's activities at their agency? Mr. David Kay, they say, is the "chief evaluation officer of the agency, with responsibility for reporting to agency's chief executive officers and technical cooperation programmes." Mr. Kay, they say, "designed evaluation procedures to cover full range of technical projects; supervised the creation of organisational structure required to support systematic evaluation of international programmes; and redesigned the agency's safeguards implementation report, the major instrument by which the agency reports on the performance of international nuclear safeguards."

The International Atomic Energy Agency was created in 1957, expressly to spread the use of nuclear power stations around the world. That was a period when many Americans believed that the industrialisation of the Third World was necessary.

But since then, the purpose of the IAEA, focused on blocking the ability of Third World countries in particular from acquiring nuclear plants, or indeed, any advanced technology or scientific expertise. This is the new world order in its essential features.

At their recent board meeting,

IAEA Director Hans Blix made this policy clear when he called for a total revamping of his agency's internal order. Specifically, Mr. Blix called for intelligence agencies worldwide to share information so it could identify and monitor countries suspected of violating safeguard agreements. CIA Director William Webster, back in 1989, proclaimed non-proliferation to be a major goal of the CIA.

Called for the U.N. Security Council to provide support to the IAEA for special inspections of sites deemed suspicious, as it has done with Iraq, where armed units have been deployed for potential use.

Assured that recent events in Iraq show the need to change the entire inspection system. He said that rather than inspecting only those sites opened by nations that signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty as he had before been the case, developments in Iraq show that it is essential to be able to conduct surprise inspections at any site at any time. The purpose of the intelligence gathering programme is to identify such sites or materials at undeclared installations.

Naturally, neither IAEA, nor Mr. David Kay, nor Mr. George Bush, have any interest in investigating the nuclear bomb facilities of Israel — Executive Intelligence Review.

Iran report says Israel to free Arabs

(Continued from page 1)

known destination as a prelude for their release.

Security sources in South Lebanon said the Al Nabhar report was not true and that there were no signs of an imminent release of Kham detainees.

Meanwhile the Iranian embassy in Beirut denied a report in the Times of London that three of Western hostages are held at the mission.

IRNA issued a press release denouncing the report as "totally unfounded."

On Monday, the British daily reported that American hostages Terry Anderson and Thomas Sutherland, and Briton Terry Waite, were being held at the

embassy.

About 300 Arab detainees are held at Khiam, in the Israeli-occupied border strip in South Lebanon. The camp is run by the Israeli-affiliated South Lebanon Army (SLA).

Another 40 detainees are held in Israel, including Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid, a Shiite cleric abducted from his home in South Lebanon in July 1989.

The release of the Arabs has been the main demand of groups holding Western hostages in Lebanon.

In a dispatch from Beirut, IRNA quoted informed sources as saying: "At present, efforts are under way for the release of a new group of Lebanese prisoners in the Zionist jails."

Islam in Central Asia

(Continued from page 4)

Asia. These republics are small and poor and are divided by internal antagonisms and external conflicts with one another. Furthermore they have been cut off and isolated from the Muslim currents of the rest of the Muslim world. When Pakistan emerged in 1947 and tried to assert itself on the pan-Islamic plane, it failed miserably for precisely these three reasons — poverty, internal divisions and isolation.

The need for a "message"

Any Muslim country which wishes to capture the attention of the worldwide Muslim community, the Umma, must have a "message" and the means to propagate it. And the "message" must be something new, not simply a restatement of the Koran, but a new concept of a strategy for the implementation of Islamic values and practices. Oil-rich Saudi Arabia has not succeeded in seizing the leadership of the Muslim world because, although it had the money to propagate a "message," it had no real "message" of its own to share. Pakistan also suffered from this failing as well. Furthermore, its leaders, Mohammad Ali Jinnah and Liaquat Ali Khan and their successors, both civilian and military, had no real Islamic vision.

Iran, under Ayatollah Khomeini, had everything necessary to capture the imagination of the Umma. The Ayatollah believed that Islam was a religion particularly appealing to the poor and the dispossessed of the earth, the mostasafin. He believed they were oppressed not only by the corrupt pro-Western rulers in their countries but by the West itself. Therefore when this message penetrated to countries of the Third World — both Muslim and non-Muslim — Iran, as a revolutionary state, secured for itself some sort of leadership position as there was, and remains, widespread anti-Western (particularly anti-American) feeling in these countries. But after this initial success, the attraction of Iran's "Islamic revolution" waned because the regime it produced was, repressive, reactionary and corrupt.

Of around 50 million people living in the five Central Asian republics of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kirghizia, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan, 40 million are

Muslims. Six million more live in Azerbaijan, which has a Shiite majority population and important but declining income from its oil wells. Another 6 million live elsewhere in the Caucasus, mostly in areas of the Russian republic. Among the five Central Asian republics Kazakhstan's population is only 50 per cent Muslim.

The key Islamic factor about the Central Asian republics is that they are all Sunni, although there are small Shiite communities in remote areas of Tajikistan, and therefore belong to the mainstream of Islam. Thus they do make a formidable block, both geographical and political, if they can hold together. But it is already clear that local disputes over boundaries and other issues will probably divide them. Tajikistan has territorial claims on Uzbekistan, following the example of Russia in the European republics.

The independence of the Central Asian republics has produced, in addition to the insubstantial pan-Islamic theory, a second theory of pan-Turkism that is equally insubstantial. The theory is that because most of the languages of the republics have a common Turkic origin and because their inhabitants are Sunni Muslims they would coalesce and then, somehow, develop special links with Turkey. Central and South America provide ample proof that similarities of language and religion cannot prevail against nationalist squabbling and territorial ambitions, which are already present.

On one issue — perhaps the only issue — can these republics be counted on to take a truly independent line from the European republics — the question of Middle East peace and Israel. The Muslim republics, which have adopted the Palestine cause and anti-Israeli policies as a matter of moral and religious policy, cannot be expected to follow the pro-U.S., pro-Israel line adopted by a subservient Moscow. For the Muslims democratic redemption is not found in submission to Israel and its demands put forward by Washington. On this one issue their integrity cannot be purchased, as has happened with the newly independent European republics, which have, unfortunately, equated anti-Zionism and anti-Israeli policies with their former Communist antagonism — Middle East International, London.

Gorbachev announces reductions

(Continued from page 1)

armed with ballistic nuclear weapons, out of service. Mr. Gorbachev said Soviets also will stop development of "a mobile small-dimension intercontinental ballistic missile" and will remove from battle alert status 503 intercontinental ballistic mis-

siles, including 134 missiles with multiple individually targeting warheads. In a key counter-proposal to the United States, Mr. Gorbachev announced "effective today, a one-year moratorium on nuclear testing, and ask others to follow suit."

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Gilbert beats Sampras, advances to Sydney final

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — Brad Gilbert of the United States clawed his way back from the brink of defeat to beat Pete Sampras in three sets Saturday and advanced to the final of the million Australian Indoor Tennis Championships.

Ninth-seeded Gilbert beat his third-seeded compatriot 1-6, 7-5, 6-3 in a four-hour struggle that lasted two hours and seven minutes.

He plays either top-seeded Stefan Edberg of Sweden or sixth-seeded Goran Ivanisevic of Yugoslavia in Sunday's final.

Gilbert, 30, trailed 1-6, 2-4 before staging a superb recovery against a player 10 years his junior.

"You've got to learn to focus when things aren't going so well," Gilbert said. "I found a way to claw my way back in there."

Gilbert has slumped this year to a seven-year low of 25th on the Association of Tennis Professionals' computer and has not won a tournament for 12 months.

The Californian hadn't dropped a set coming into the semifinals but looked down and out midway through the second set.

"I seemed to get a lot more aggressively minded toward the

end of the second set," Gilbert said. "I got a second wind."

Gilbert served impressively under pressure, picked up his volleying and hit some superb cross-court shots, while varying the pace of his ground strokes.

Sampras had five break points for 5-4 on Gilbert's serve in the ninth game of the second set, but missed them all.

The match turned from that point with Gilbert growing in confidence, while former U.S. Open champion Sampras wilted.

Sampras had six break points on his own serve in three different games in the final set, but Gilbert's nerve held.

"No doubt about it. I should have won," Sampras said. "I had too many chances. I had lots of break points, but he was the enforcer."

Sampras paid tribute to Gilbert's dogged determination and mental strength.

"I got frustrated and flustered but Brad can do that to you," he said. "He always seems to find a way to win."

Sampras, ranked seventh in the world, said his own attitude also was a factor in the loss.

"I was a little too conservative,

I was waiting for him to miss rather than being aggressive," he said.

Gilbert advanced to the 35th final of his career and will be looking for his 21st tournament victory. His last win came in the Queensland Open in Brisbane last September.

Gilbert has won at least one tournament each year since 1983 and will be bidding to keep that streak alive when he faces Edberg or Ivanisevic.

Gilbert lifted his career record against Sampras to 3-1. He reached his third final of the year, following losses in the championship matches in San Francisco and Los Angeles.

The tournament, which offers a first prize of \$122,700, finishing Sunday.

On Friday, Ivanisevic hit serves at 118 mph (191 kph) for a career-high 27 strokes and beat Andre Agassi 7-5, 7-6 (7-3) Friday in the quarterfinals.

Ivanisevic saved two set points in the second set and staved off eight break points, winning a battle of wills in the later stages of the nine-hour and 36-minute match.

"He hit hard and I hit harder,"



Brad Gilbert

Ivanisevic said.

The Yugoslav left-hander, who has said he wants to be referred to as Croatian, was cheered on by hundreds of fans chanting and waving Croatian flags.

"Suddenly I've found my best tennis," Ivanisevic said. "It was unbelievable tonight. I was hitting the ball as hard as I could. I didn't have anything to lose."

Fourth-seeded Agassi marvelled at Ivanisevic.

"That is the best anyone has served against me," Agassi said. "It was a great effort. If he plays like that anything is possible."

Injuries ravage Liverpool ahead of United clash

LONDON (R) — Liverpool's injury crisis is so dire that the 11 players in the treatment room would arguably be a stronger team than the one which actually plays English soccer league leaders Manchester United Sunday.

The growing list of incapacitated players is largely to blame for Liverpool's poor start to the season which, after nine games, sees them languishing in 10th place, 11 points behind Manchester United.

Defeat in Sunday's televised game at Old Trafford, together with long-term injuries to such key figures as international John Barnes, Ronnie Whelan, and Mark Wright, could seriously damage Liverpool's championship aspirations.

Beleaguered Liverpool manager Graeme Souness now fears that record £2.9 million (\$4.9 million) signing Dean Saunders and England B defender David Burrows might also miss the clash with United, the only remaining unbeaten first division side.

Striker Saunders, along with Wright's understudy Nick Tanner both missed Wednesday's UEFA Cup defeat in Finland, while Burrows limped off after just 22 minutes.

United, whose determination to win the championship 25 years after their last triumph has taken them six points clear at the top, have probably never had a better chance of beating their fierce rivals.

The game also provides the perfect opportunity for two United players to impress England manager Graham Taylor, whose side for this month's European Championship qualifier against Turkey is also depleted by in-

juries.

Former Captain Bryan Robson, rejected by Taylor this year, and Paul Parker want to stake their claims for international recalls.

Parker, set to replace injured Gary Pallister, has not played since damaging a hamstring in England's 1-0 defeat by Germany last month but United manager Alex Ferguson rates his chances of being included Sunday as "pretty good."

Robson's international career looked over when Taylor jettisoned him after the 1-1 draw with Ireland in March but, with his squad wrecked by injuries, Taylor is thought to be tempted to bring back Robson to inspire the goal-rush England need against the Turks.

Ferguson admits he does not care if Robson never plays for England again. He is happy to see him devoting his still considerable energies, even at 34, to United's title-chasing cause.

"People have been writing him off for years and even we have set down more than once and thought about finding a replacement for him. But he just keeps on going and providing everybody with a good example," said Ferguson.

Des Walker, the Nottingham Forest central defender who has been out with a damaged hamstring since the first game of the season, could be back against Queen's Park Rangers Saturday, just in time to be named in the England squad.

Walker came off the substitutes' bench to play an emergency attacking role in the closing stages of Forest's 2-2 home draw with West Ham last Saturday.

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Panel calls for Reynolds' reinstatement

INDIANAPOLIS (R) — A three-member panel of the Athletics Congress (TAC) Doping Hearing Board has recommended reinstatement for 400 metres world record holder Butch Reynolds, who is under suspension for steroid use. In a 15-page opinion delivered to TAC — the sport's U.S. governing body — the panel found fault with procedures used in testing Reynolds. The International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF) suspended Reynolds from competition for two years after announcing that the 27-year-old American track star had tested positive for the banned anabolic steroid Nandrolone at a meeting in Monte Carlo on Aug. 12. Reynolds appealed the suspension to TAC and the three-member panel was selected to hear the 1988 Olympic silver medalist's case. Friday's decision in part says "there is a strong case that can be made which leaves too much doubt to find against Reynolds."

Waddle to play in world team

MUNICH (R) — England international Chris Waddle is to replace Italian Riccardo Ferri in the world select team to play world champions Germany in a soccer match in aid of the children's charity UNICEF Tuesday. The Marseille winger stepped in after Ferri was drafted into the Italian squad for their European Championship qualifier against the Soviet Union on Oct. 12. The Germans are using the game as serious preparation for their key European qualifier against Wales in Nuremberg on Oct. 16. Coach Bert Vogts is expected to field his first-choice team.

Becker to return to action in Tokyo

MUNICH, Germany (R) — Boris Becker plans to return to action at next week's ATP Tennis Tournament in Tokyo after a five-week break because of injury. "I feel fine. I'm getting ready in Munich for my tournament comeback," the German world number two said in a newspaper interview Friday. The three-time Wimbledon champion has been struggling with back problems as well as a thigh strain. Last month, Becker's manager Ion Tiriac said the back injuries were chronic and were having a big physical and mental impact on his game. The 23-year-old Becker, who also plans to play tournaments in Stockholm and Paris before next month's World Championship in Frankfurt, said he still hoped to dislodge Sweden's Stefan Edberg from the top of the world rankings this year. "If everything goes well I can still catch Stefan Edberg in the number one spot," he said. "It is my biggest wish to finish the season as the number one."

Novotna defeats Huber in Leipzig

LEIPZIG (AP) — Third seeded Jana Novotna of Czechoslovakia defeated Germany's Anke Huber 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 Friday to advance to the semifinals of the \$225,000 Leipzig Volkswagen-Damen Grand Prix. The 16-year-old seventh-seeded German dominated the first set, responding to Novotna's serves and volleys with a steady high balls and long overhead shots. But Huber lost concentration and too often sent returns long in the second and third sets to lose in two hours and 22 minutes. Novotna, seeded third, goes on to face fifth-ranked Arantxa Sanchez of Spain, who overpowered Wimbledon junior champion Barbara Rittner 6-1, 6-1, of Germany, in 58 minutes. Other semifinal matches planned for Saturday include Steffi Graf against the winner of a late Friday match between Bulgaria's Katarina Maleeva and Austria's Barbara Paulus.

Liverpool signs England youth defender

LONDON (R) — Liverpool signed Crewe Alexandra and England youth team defender Rob Jones in a \$600,000 (\$1.05 million) deal. The 19-year-old Jones will make his debut for the injury hit former champions in Sunday's first division match against unbeaten league leaders Manchester United at Old Trafford. "This is a great chance for him," said Liverpool manager Graeme Souness. "We have been looking for a right-sided player for some time and we have watched him closely." Manchester United winger Lee Sharpe, out of action all season because of a groin injury, will undergo surgery Monday, manager Alex Ferguson announced. "He's having the operation to relieve a tendon in his groin," Ferguson said. "We are hoping he will be back in training in three weeks." "The last thing we wanted was for him to have an operation and we resisted that move as long as possible. But now we have no option."

PSV suspends Brazilian striker

EINDHOVEN, Netherlands (R) — Dutch champions PSV Eindhoven has suspended Brazilian striker Romario for one game for showing his disgust at being substituted during a European Cup tie. Romario, playing his first match since he was injured in August, was taken off by former England coach Bobby Robson 20 minutes before the end of Wednesday's first round, second leg match against Turkey's Besiktas. Romario, who had made little impact on the game, gestured to the bench that he did not agree with his substitution. He left the stadium almost immediately. The Brazilian later apologized to Robson but was still handed a one-match ban and a substantial fine by the PSV management.

AMMAN LITTLE LEAGUE

Soccer matches held on Friday, Oct. 4, 1991.

TOTS					
Vita	(0)	Vs	Marriott	(1)	
Pirelli	(5)	Vs	Philadelphia	(0)	

JUNIORS					
Agaba Shipping	(2)	Vs	Al Hikma	(0)	
UPS	(2)	Vs	Epson	(0)	
Union Bank	(1)	Vs	GEMT	(0)	
Fox boro	(4)	Vs	Soudani	(1)	

MIDS					
Istiklal	(1)	Vs	AICI	(3)	
Volvo	(1)	Vs	Delta	(0)	
Comcent	(0)	Vs	Tramec	(5)	

SENIORS					
Int. Traders	(4)	Vs	Nash / Ebb	(1)	
Lois	(2)	Vs	Chili House	(2)	

STANDINGS

	W	D	L	GF-GA	PT
TOTS					
Marriott	2	1	0	3-1	5
Pirelli	2	0	1	6-2	4
Vita	1	0	2	2-3	2
Philadelphia	0	1	2	0-5	1

	W	D	L	GF-GA	PT
JUNIORS					
Fox boro	3	0	1	8-3	6
Agaba Shipping	3	0	1	6-2	6
UPS	3	0	1	4-1	6
Union Bank	2	1	1	2-1	5
Epson	2	1	2	4-4	5
GEMT	1	1	2	4-4	3
AL Hikma	1	1	2	4-5	3
Soudani	0	0	4	3-15	0

	W	D	L	GF-GA	PT
MIDS					
Tramec	3	0	0	15-3	6
AICI	2	0	1	9-6	4
Volvo	2	0	1	3-6	4
Delta	1	0	2	6-5	2
Comcent	1	0	2	1-6	2
Istiklal	0	0	3	1-9	0

	W	D	L	GF-GA	PT
SENIORS					
Lois	2	1	0	10-6	5
Chili House	2	1	0	7-5	5
Int. Traders	1	0	2	9-9	2
Nash/Ebb	0	0	3	2-9	0

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
8 TAYMAN KIRCH
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CUT THROUGH THE OPPOSITION

East-West vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ K 10 2
♥ Q 8 3 2
♦ A Q 10 4
♣ Q 7

EAST
♠ 8 7 6 4
♥ K 5
♦ 8 6 3
♣ K 10 8 6 3 2 A J 9 5

SOUTH
♠ A Q
♥ J 10 7 6 4
♦ K J 9 7 5
♣ 4

The bidding:
South West North East
1♣ Pass 3♥ Pass
4♥ Pass 5♥ Pass
6♥ Pass 7♥ Pass
As declarer, you have nefarious characters seated on both sides of you, plotting your downfall. It is your sworn task to do what you can to negate their efforts.

North-South conducted a standard auction to their best spot. With the equivalent of an opening bid and reasonable four-card support, North's forcing jump raise to three hearts was textbook.

West led the two of diamonds, which everyone at the table recognized as a singleton. To show an entry in the lower-ranked side suit,

i.e. clubs, East followed suit with the three. Declarer won in hand and, in an effort to sneak a trump through, led a low heart, but there was no fooling West. The defender rose with the trump ace, led a low club to partner's ace and got the diamond ruff. Since declarer still had to concede a trick to the king of hearts, that meant down one.

The diamond lead was doubly disastrous, because it also prevented a fast entry to dummy which would have permitted declarer to take a discard of the club loser on the king of spades. Still, as the cards lay, declarer could have used the ace of spades to save his contract.

After winning the first trick, declarer should have cashed the ace of spades, overtaken the queen with the king and then led the ten of spades. When East does not cover with the jack, declarer should simply discard the four of clubs—a loser-on-loser play that cuts the enemy communication.

As a result, West would have no way to get to the East hand to obtain a diamond ruff—allowing East to win the first trump would simply mean that West would be ruffing the diamond with a natural trump trick. This Scaissors Coup, as the play is called in the trade, would have limited declarer's losers to two trumps and a spade!

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: If you find yourself unable to carry through with a plan that has an essential factor missing, don't be afraid to break a promise but be certain that others know your reasons clearly.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You can get many projects done whether at home, on the road, at shops, places of business or where the government is concerned so waste not a minute.

Taurus: (April 20 to May 20) You can have some very happy times now as soon as you have done the duties awaiting you can get out in the world of action and be with those you like.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Take a good look at your own home and what is happening there and you will see, what needs to be done in order to have more pleasant conditions exist there.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Make sure that you do get out with usual companions and show that you are the one who does value the support of your valued allies.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You are able now to see pretty clearly what you can do to more money and to have a greater abundance than you have had before this by your own efforts.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Now you have the strength and the energy plus the ideas to put in action that plan of action that you have been considering but have put off.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22)

Get at making those preparations for the success that seems so much to you and keep going on about your trials and tribulations that interest you.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) A good and devoted precise friend has some valuable suggestions for your personal advancement if you will but listen to them and accept them.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) This is the time for you to make sure you do anything of an official nature that can bring you more support from those in power.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Whatever new inspiration is now yours is very good for you so make a point to think deeply and study further on the prophetic insight now yours.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You have a considerable number of obligations and you are able to get ahead quickly by accepting them and getting them behind you in careful manner.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Whatever makes you more aware what your allies would like you to do is excellent now so use your time to get content and ask them for their help.

Today's child: If your child were born today she or he requires more calm and quiet around them than most children and will pick for friends, peace who fit into the same category. This child understands how to listen to the other person and to wait to ask questions regarding intimate details.

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Annex: Rio De Janeiro
Annex: Arma Hotel: 6th floor

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



"I got some dolphin-safe tuna, duck-safe chicken and horse-safe hamburger."

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

HALET
MYMUR
DOUBIT
VELENE

WHAT KIND OF BUSINESS WAS THAT BOOKSHOP DEPENDING ON?

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

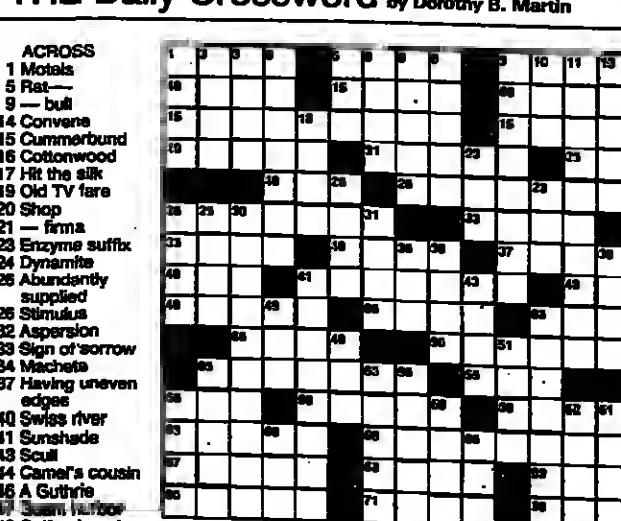
Print answer here: "O O O O O O O O"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: EVOKE SHOWY REALTY LEEWAY

Answer: His wife was an ophthalmologist, and she corrected his vision until he saw this—EYE TO EYE WITH HER

THE Daily Crossword by Dorothy B. Martin



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1. Metal
2. Flat
3. bull
4. Convent
5. Cucumber
6. Cottonwood
7. Hit the silk
8. Old TV fare
9. Shop
10. firm
11. Enzyme suffix
12. Dynamite
13. Absurdity
14. supplied
15. Stimulus
16. Aspiration
17. Sign of sorrow
18. Having uneven edges
19. Swiss river
20. Sunshade
21. Scall
22. Camel's cousin
23. A Guffin
24. Sausage
25. Golfers' goals
26. Aristotle
27. Playhouse
28. Linkwater
29. Vehicle
30. Bird
31. Hurd
32. Hanging tapestry
33. Violin name
34. Not important
35. Muz. money
36. Ancient Aelan country
37. Cattle old style
38. Sheep crest
39. Reward
40. Rascal
41. Shrover of TV
42. Down
43. Sprits
44. Terrific
45. Pianist
46. Beggar
47. Embur
48. On edge
49. Flat bloom
50. At that place
51. Caravaggio
52. Brew

51. Ancient Syria
52. More doodle
53. Cowboy at times
54. Dodge
55. —ple (from head to foot)
56. Capud
57. Part of A.D.
58. Fr. holy woman
59. Toller
60. Destroy
61. Part of A.D.
62. Fr. holy woman
63. Toller
64. Destroy
65. Part of A.D.
66. Fr. holy woman
67. Toller
68. Destroy
69. Part of A.D.
70. Fr. holy woman
71. Toller
72. Destroy
73. Part of A.D.
74. Fr. holy woman
75. Toller
76. Destroy
77. Part of A.D.
78. Fr. holy woman
79. Toller
80. Destroy
81. Part of A.D.
82. Fr. holy woman
83. Toller
84. Destroy
85. Part of A.D.
86. Fr. holy woman
87. Toller
88. Destroy
89. Part of A.D.
90. Fr. holy woman
91. Toller
92. Destroy
93. Part of A.D.
94. Fr. holy woman
95. Toller
96. Destroy
97. Part of A.D.
98. Fr. holy woman
99. Toller
100. Destroy

Financial Markets

in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	new York Date: 5/10/91	London Date: 4/10/91
Sterling Pound	1.7580	1.7570
Deutsche Mark	1.6636	1.6680
Swiss Franc	1.4545	1.4695
French Franc	5.6685	5.7160
Japanese Yen	130.82	129.80
European Currency Unit	1.2285**	1.2210

* USD Per STG
** European Opening @ 8:00 a.m. GMT

Intercurrency Interest Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.18	5.25	5.37	5.56
Sterling Pound	10.43	10.12	10.06	9.93
Deutsche Mark	9.12	9.78	9.25	9.31
Swiss Franc	8.06	8.06	8.06	7.81
French Franc	9.25	9.37	9.37	9.43
Japanese Yen	6.81	6.53	6.21	5.96
European Currency Unit	9.93	9.93	9.81	9.81

Interbank bid rates for currencies against U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Precious Metals

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	358.9	6.90	Silver	4.77	.095

* 21 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.685	.687
Sterling Pound	1.1890	1.1949
Deutsche Mark	.4083	.4103
Swiss Franc	.4660	.4683
French Franc	.1197	.1205
Japanese Yen	.5279	.5305
Dutch Guilder	.3620	.3638
Swedish Krona	.1120	.1126
Italian Lira	.0546	.0549
Belgian Franc	.01981	.01991

* Per 100

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7880	1.7960
Lebanese Lira	.0775	.0785
Saudi Riyal	.1824	.1835
Kuwaiti Dinar	—	—
Qatari Riyal	.1856	.1863
Egyptian Pound	.2070	.2150
Omani Riyal	1.7580	1.7700
UAE Dirham	.1556	.1563
Greek Drachma	.3950	.3950
Cypriot Pound	1.4700	1.4900

* Per 100

CAB Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	25/9/91	Close	2/10/91	Close
All-Share	119.89		121.20	
Banking Sector	100.55		102.34	
Insurance Sector	120.89		122.47	
Industry Sector	149.41		150.01	
Services Sector	127.69		128.41	

December 31, 1990 = 100

S. African arms firm to lay off 5,000 workers

CAPE TOWN (R) — South Africa's state-owned weapons producer Armscor, the country's most successful exporter, said Friday it would lay off 5,000 of its 20,000 staff as part of a rationalisation package. Armscor Chairman Johan Van Vuuren said in a statement the layoffs at the firm's Pretoria headquarters and its 12 subsidiaries nationwide, which would begin at the end of October, were part of a restructuring package. "The organisation is planning for the future with the objective of maintaining technologies and of creating new job opportunities in an environment which will not be dependent on factors beyond the control of the company," Mr. Van Vuuren said. An Armscor spokesman said the layoffs would have a ripple effect on Armscor's estimated 900 sub-contractors.



Bush says economy needs a 'shot of confidence'

WASHINGTON (R) — President George Bush has expressed concern about the strength of the U.S. economy's recovery from recession but insisted that matters could be a lot worse. Mr. Bush at a news conference Friday appeared on the defensive at times about the economy, blaming the Democratic-led Congress for failing to approve his growth package.

Since Mr. Bush became president in January 1989 the economy entered a recession under his watch, in July 1990, and is making a slow recovery that is worrisome to the White House. Democrats who would like to take back the presidency in the 1992 poll are seizing on the issue as evidence of Mr. Bush's disinterest in domestic affairs.

"Thanks God this recession hasn't been as deep as previous recessions," Mr. Bush said. He said evidence of this was that the so-called "misery index" of unemployment and inflation added together was relatively low.

"Thank God, even when people are hurting, that that misery index is lower than at some of the times in the recent past — within the last 15, 20 years. It's not doing badly," he said. Mr. Bush was heartened by Labour Department statistics showing the unemployment rate easing to 6.7 per cent in September from 6.8 per cent in August.

He said figures showed the economy was moving in the right direction but added: "Let me be the first to say all is not well. I'm deeply concerned about those who are out of work."

The Labour report was seen by economists as a sign that the recovery was slow and uneven. To make matters worse, state and local governments coping with budget shortfalls are still planning major lay-offs and surveys show businesses are generally not doing much hiring.

"We have yet to see any sustained signs of a rebound in the labour market," Janet Norwood, commissioner of the Bureau of Labour Statistics, told the Congress.

Consumer confidence is suffering in a period of uncertainty, with people in many cases holding onto their cash instead of buying expensive items because they worry what would happen if they were laid off.

Mr. Bush said the economy needs a "shot of confidence" and one helpful item would be his proposal for a cut in the capital gains tax, which would reduce the tax rate on profits from the sale of stocks and other investments.

Mr. Bush says this would encourage more investment and lead to creation of more jobs. The idea has gone nowhere in the Congress where Democrats charge Mr. Bush is simply trying to help out the wealthy.

Kuwaitis transferred \$2.7 billion abroad in August, September

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwaiti firms and investors have shifted more than \$2½ billion abroad since the central bank lifted restrictions on withdrawals and transfers in August, the finance minister was quoted as saying Saturday. Bankers said the amount was less than had been predicted and mostly represented large firms settling bills outstanding from the Iraqi occupation.

Local newspapers quoted Finance Minister Nasser Abdullah Al Rodhan as saying 780 million dinars (\$2.7 billion) had been transferred between Aug 3 and mid-September.

The central bank, fearing a massive capital flight, imposed a monthly ceiling of 4,000 dinars (\$13,500) on withdrawals and foreign currency transfers after the emirate was freed from Iraqi occupation in February.

It later eased the limit to 6,000 dinars (\$20,000) and on Aug. 3 lifted all restrictions. Since the liberation, the central bank has pumped about \$1 billion

into the banking system to prop up the dinar.

Before scrapping the restrictions, the central bank made repeated appeals to clients not to dump dinars for dollars.

Bankers said 780 million dinars represented the equivalent of total deposits at one major bank in Kuwait, but the withdrawals would not affect the currency's value.

"It is definitely a drain on capital in Kuwait, but will not affect the value of the dinar because it is a fixed currency. The government sets its value and supports it at that rate," one banker said.

Kuwait's five state-controlled commercial banks face huge debts dating back to the 1982 crash of the unofficial secondary stock market, the Souk Al Manakh.

The bankers said transfers were well above their levels before the Iraqi invasion last year, but were less than the central

bank had expected.

They had forecast that up to half the around seven billion dinars (\$23 billion) in total deposits at seven banks would be transferred once restrictions were lifted.

Most of the withdrawals were made by large firms who had been unable to pay their bills while accounts were frozen during the seven-month Iraqi occupation, they said.

"As far as transfers by individuals, the percentage of the total money withdrawn and transferred has been very small," one banker said.

"People realise there is no real security problem anymore so there is no need to panic and transfer their money especially after the defence pact was signed with the United States," he said.

Kuwait and the United States signed a 10-year agreement last month allowing Washington to stockpile military supplies in the emirate and send planes and ships there in any emergency.

France asks state-run firms to reconsider cutting jobs

PARIS (R) — The French government, worried by rising unemployment, is asking state-owned companies that have unveiled long-term redundancy plans to think again, a senior official has said.

Air France, car maker Renault and steel producer Usinor Sacilor have all said recently that they were considering big job cuts in the coming years to increase productivity. Asked whether the government had asked the heads of nationalised firms to suspend the job cuts, Abel Farnoux, special adviser to Prime Minister Edith Cresson, told reporters: "No, not to suspend them, but to take another look."

Mr. Farnoux said Air France Chairman Bernard Attali was called to the prime minister's office Monday to explain the reorganisation that he announced last week.

The plan, aimed at getting the airline out of the red by the end of 1993, would entail the loss of 3,000 jobs by 1993.

Mr. Farnoux said he did not know the outcome of the meeting but added: "I think (the plan) is going to be reviewed."

Renault Chairman Raymond Levy has already toned down a forecast he made on Sept. 20 that the car firm might have to slash its workforce by 40 per cent over the next seven years to match Japanese productivity rates.

In an interview with the French daily Le Figaro, Mr. Levy said Renault would lose that many jobs only if output remained steady. Higher output would mean fewer job losses.

Finance Minister Pierre Bérégovoy said recently firms were being too pessimistic. "Those who announce drastic job cuts are wrong, because you cannot make judgments on one month's or even one year's business," he said.

Although the number of jobs less than 17,700 in August from July's record 2,763,200 Labour Minister Martine Aubry has warned of a renewed deterioration in the coming months.

The gloomy jobs outlook is likely to ensure a rough ride for Mrs. Cresson's minority Socialist government when parliament, which started a new term Tuesday, debates a tough budget that Mr. Bérégovoy has drafted for 1992.

With economic growth forecast at only 2.2 per cent, Mrs. Cresson will be particularly under pressure from within her own Socialist Party to spend more on creating jobs.

Backing Mr. Bérégovoy's hard line on spending, Mr. Farnoux said lasting jobs could be created only if inflation was kept low.

Airbus unveils new jet

TOULOUSE, France (R) — Airbus Industrie Friday unveiled its long-range A340 airliner, the European consortium's newest entry in a bitter battle with U.S. rivals Boeing and McDonnell Douglas for a bigger share of the commercial market.

In advertisements splashed across three pages of the Wall Street Journal and the Financial Times, Airbus trumpeted the A340 as the first new four-engine long-range jet airliner developed in more than two decades.

The four-engine consortium says the aircraft is the most advanced widebody ever made, with "fly by wire" computer systems that replace many of the manual controls that guide most older airliners.

Developed at a cost of \$3.6 billion, much of which came from European governments, it is the newest challenger in the \$40 billion commercial aircraft market. It will carry up to 262 to 295 passengers.

The increasingly acrimonious contest between Airbus, Boeing Co. and McDonnell Corp. is being waged in the market place, at world trade summits and in the media.

Founded 20 years ago as a tiny firm with a single product, Airbus

has become the world's second-largest civil aircraft maker, boasting sales of \$4.6 billion last year.

The consortium, which groups Aerospace of France, British Aerospace PLC, Construcciones Aeronauticas S.A. of Spain and the Deutsche Airbus unit of Germany's Daimler-Benz A.G., has delivered 774 aircraft to customers and has a backlog of another 984.

Its spectacular rise has been mainly at the expense of McDonnell Douglas, whose market share has steadily eroded during the last decade, analysts say.

Analysts estimate that Boeing currently has 55 per cent of the large jet market, unchanged from a decade ago, while Airbus has around 28 per cent and McDonnell Douglas about 18 per cent. A handful of smaller aircraft manufacturers make up the rest.

Airbus is gaining ground. In a particularly stunning victory for the A340, Singapore Airlines on Aug. 2 cancelled plans to buy 20 McDonnell Douglas MD-11S and switched to the Airbus aircraft.

A week later, McDonnell Douglas Chairman John McDonnell made a stinging attack on the European firm.

"Airbus Industrie's increasingly successful assault on U.S. pre-dominance in commercial aircraft markets is fuelled by massive subsidies from three European governments," Mr. McDonnell wrote in the U.S. magazine Aviation Week and Space Technology.

"There is no more blatant example in the world today of a tax-supported entity engaged in unfair and predatory trade," he said.

Airbus has also come under attack from the U.S. government, which this summer lodged a complaint under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade alleging EC government subsidies give Airbus an unfair advantage over U.S. firms.

Airbus maintains the funds it receives from governments are consistent with world trade rules and argues that U.S. firms are indirectly subsidised through U.S. military contracts.

While analysts forecast that Boeing is likely to retain its dominant market position, they say Airbus' rise has effectively consigned McDonnell Douglas to a marginal position in the market.

Egypt raises cigarette prices

CAIRO (R) — Egypt raised cigarette prices Saturday for the third time this year as part of moves to narrow a huge budget deficit.

Retailers said the price of a standard pack of 20 domestically-produced cigarettes rose 10 piasters (three cents) to 1.45 pounds (43 cents).

Cigarette prices have risen by 21 per cent since January. Local newspapers said the latest increase would generate 90 million pounds (\$27 million) in state revenue.

In May, Egypt signed an agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on economic reforms including a substantial cut in a budget deficit estimated at nine billion pounds (\$2.7 billion) in the fiscal year which ended June 30.

An IMF team is currently in town to review progress in implementing the reforms. Earlier this year, prices of food, energy and domestic appliances rose by up to 100 per cent. The government also imposed a 10 per cent sales tax on manufactured goods in line with IMF demands.

Meanwhile, the head of the state cotton firm said Egypt's cotton harvest will rise by about five per cent this year but raw cotton imports will also rise because of a new export policy.

"Our estimate for the harvest is six million qantars (930,000 bales) but imports will be up too," Ahmed Shouman, chairman of the General Organisation

for Cotton (GOC), told Reuters. The new harvest estimate was up from initial estimates in August of 880,000 bales, the same as last year's harvest.

Egypt has said it will allocate 155,000 bales for export this year regardless of harvest levels to recapture export markets in Europe and Japan for its high-quality long-staple cotton.

Exports have plummeted in recent years, cutting a crucial source of foreign revenue for Egypt.

Mr. Shouman said import requirements would not be known precisely until December but would be at least last year's 155,000 bales.

But the imports will be of short-staple lower grades, Mr. Shouman said. He singled out Syria as a possible source.

Industry analysts have said Egypt's attempts to promote its domestic textile industry were inefficient because it was using high-grade raw cotton to produce lower quality finished goods.

Cotton officials said a price liberalisation policy had borne fruit, as farmers were planting more land with cotton and taking care to maximise the yields.

Mr. Shouman said the GOC was paying private farmers 60 per cent of world market prices this year, and this should rise to 65 per cent next year.

He said 20 per cent of the harvest was in so far. The harvest started in September and should end in December.

Special association links IMF and Soviet Union

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union entered a special association with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Saturday, allowing for immediate help from some of the world's best financial brains but no quick fix to its economic problems.

IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus said the agreement became effective after an exchange of letters in the Kremlin with President Mikhail Gorbachev.

A team of IMF experts will start work in Moscow Monday, offering advice in several areas, including macro-economic policies, tax and banking reforms and statistics.

Mr. Camdessus said special association did not give Moscow access to badly-needed credits. He also warned that reforming the Soviet economy and introducing a market system was a daunting task.

"It will not create miracles overnight...transformation of such an immense economy will require effort and perseverance. It can lead to a decisive transformation of the economic and social condition of this country," he said.

The Soviet budget deficit, money supply and inflation are soaring, production and living standards are plummeting, and a winter of food and fuel shortages is predicted.

Soviet inflation was 100 per cent in the year up to August 1991 and still climbing, and money supply was also growing rapidly, Mr. Camdessus said.

"Such a level of inflation is a deadly cancer, not only for the economy but for society...I have no doubt the authorities will take the necessary steps," he said.

Under Saturday's accord the IMF, branded a capitalist tool by the Soviet Union's former communist rulers, will conduct periodic reviews of the country's economy with full cooperation from the Kremlin.

Mr. Camdessus said Soviet authorities agreed to make available the same information as other IMF members, a promise that would commit it to disclosing hitherto secret data on gold reserves.

The benefits of the special association can be extended to individual Soviet republics, he said. Most republics are expected to join in an economic union treaty shortly offering substantial autonomy.

The Baltic states have opted for full political and economic independence. "The republics have major responsibilities in the area of macro-economic policy...this agreement paves the way for the USSR and the republics to take their rightful place in the world economic system," Mr. Camdessus said.

Mr. Camdessus told a news conference the agreement on associate status made the fund — the world's leading economic troubleshooter — "more universal."

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Croatia must lift base blockade before ceasefire, army says

ZAGREB, Yugoslavia (Agencies) — Yugoslav Defence Minister General Veljko Kadijevic told Croatia's leaders Saturday that the rebel republic must lift a blockade of federal army bases before any ceasefire can take effect.

Army General Andrija Raseta said Gen. Kadijevic set out his terms in a letter to Croatian President Franjo Tudjman Saturday.

Gen. Raseta, deputy commander of the Fifth Military District that includes Croatia, said lifting the blockade was "the basic precondition for a ceasefire." He said army action would escalate if no ceasefire was agreed.

New fighting raged across Croatia Saturday, with the federal army closing in on the Adriatic port of Dubrovnik and redoubling efforts to seize Croatian strongholds in the east of the war-torn republic.

Air raid sirens sounded in the republic's capital, Zagreb, where schools were ordered closed because of the army's advance on the city. Air raid alarms sent residents scurrying for shelter in at least six other Croatian towns, officials said.

At least 12 people were reported killed Friday in separate attacks on Karlovac, a strategic city some 50 kilometres south west of Zagreb, and Novska, an

embattled town along the main Zagreb-Belgrade highway.

Six people were killed when a missile hit a bus station in Karlovac late Friday, the Croatian Defence Ministry said.

At least six more people were killed in Novska, some 60 miles (100 kilometres) southeast of Zagreb, when cluster bombs reportedly fell on the town after an all-clear siren sounded Friday afternoon, Croatian TV and other media reported.

TV showed pictures of burned corpses in cars.

Fresh attacks also were reported Saturday morning on the strongholds of Osijek, Vinkovci and Vukovar in east Croatia's oil-rich Slavonia region bordering Serbia.

The Tanjug News Agency quoted army sources as saying federal troops had begun a final push to get Croat forces out of Vukovar, a once-beautiful town on the Danube River.

More army attacks were reported around Dubrovnik, the stunning medieval port on the Adriatic. Croatian Defence Ministry officials said the Croats had succeeded in beating back advances on Slano, north of Dubrovnik, and an attempted landing to the south.

But Tanjug reported the army had taken the village of Cilipi,

near the city's airport.

The ancient heart of the city appeared so far spared as power, water and communications were severed in Dubrovnik for a fifth day, Tanjug said.

The fighting raged despite an agreement in the Hague, Netherlands, on Friday that was aimed at halting the increasing death and destruction.

The European Community's (EC) chief mediator said success of the truce, the seventh since the conflict began three months ago, would depend on whether the rival Croats and Serbs can control their fighters.

The federal army, which has increasingly backed the Serbs, agreed to halt its four-day air, land and sea offensive against Croatia in exchange for the Croats lifting their blockade of besieged federal garrisons inside the republic. The federal barracks were reporting shortage of supplies and mass desertions.

But no timetable was given for a cessation of hostilities under the EC-mediated truce, and Britain's Lord Carrington, chairman of the EC peace conference, was cautious about whether the combatants would adhere to this plan.

"Logistically, there is nothing to fight about, but it does not follow that this is what is going to happen," he told the British Broadcasting Corp. (BBC).

"There are some people who do not want to stop the fighting, in which more than 600 people have been killed since Croatia declared independence on June 25.

About 600,000 ethnic Serbs refuse to be a part of an independent Croatia and with help from the army have seized about one-third of the breakaway republic bordering Serbia, which is led by Communist President Slobodan Milosevic.

"We will see if a ceasefire will be accepted and whether a lull (in fighting) will come," Croatian President Franjo Tudjman said late Friday.

At the same time, Serbian presidency member Borisav Jovic announced that the federal government was under control of its republic and its allies, following their takeover Thursday of the nearly defunct federal parliament.

Mr. Jovic's announcement signalled that Serbia and the Serb-dominated federal army are officially united against Croatia.

The U.S. government blasted the action, saying "this decision completely contradicts the spirit and the letter of the Yugoslav system, which was expressly designed to ensure that all republics had a say in decision-making and that no grouping of republics could dominate others."

Candidates launch race to replace Kaifu

TOKYO (AP) — Three senior leaders of the governing Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) rushed to announce their candidacies Saturday to replace Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, who said he will not seek another term.

Mr. Kaifu bowed out of the race in a nationally televised news conference Saturday, but urged his successor to continue efforts to reform Japan's scandal-ridden political system.

"Two years ago we started at a time many called the gravest crisis since the formation of our party. We started from the very bottom," he said. "If we do not keep the flame of reform burning, we will be violating the wishes of the people."

Mr. Kaifu was chosen to head the party in August 1989 because he was uninvolved in an influence-buying scandal that prevented more senior politicians from being named prime minister.

His "Mr. Clean" reputation helped boost the party's public ratings to record highs during his two years in office. He consistently commands personal approval ratings higher than 50 per cent.

But in Japanese politics public opinion often is a minor factor in choosing a prime minister because the Liberal Democrats have been in power for so long and opposition parties are so weak.

Georgian troops pull back but capital still tense

MOSCOW (AP) — At least one person was killed and more than 80 were injured in overnight clashes between forces loyal to the government and opposition groups in the Georgian Republic, news reports said Saturday.

The independent news agency Iprinda said hand-to-hand fighting broke out shortly after midnight between the opposition and National Guardmen loyal to President Zviad Gamsakhurdia.

"In order to disperse the crowd, presidential National Guardmen began shooting in the air," the report said. "Two hours later, there was again shooting near the government building."

Iprinda quoted the Georgian Health Ministry as saying at least one person died of bullet wounds.

Health Ministry officials said at least 81 people were injured in the two clashes, nine of them suffering bullet wounds, local journalist Georgy Vardolashvili said by telephone from Tbilisi.

He said the shooting first broke out when Tbilisi police and elite Georgian troops attempted to disperse opposition rallies on Rustaveli Avenue, the capital's main street.

"Panic began, and people trampled each other," Mr. Vardolashvili said.

Shortly after dawn, Georgian troops in an armoured personnel carrier drove down Rustaveli Avenue and fired off machine-guns to disperse the crowd. Policemen ran behind the armoured car and fired into the crowd, wounding three people, Mr. Vardolashvili said.

Elsewhere, the Russian Federation Friday established diplomatic ties with independent Latvia, Soviet media reported, and talks were underway with other Baltic states.

Estonia reached agreement in principle with Soviet Defence Minister Yevgeny Shaposhnikov for Soviet troops to begin leaving the newly independent Baltic state as soon as possible.

In South Ossetia, eight people were reported wounded and several buildings damaged. A rocket attack on the capital city Tskhinvali came from nearby villages held by Georgian militants, the Soviet News Agency (TASS) said.

South Ossetians claimed 12

people were taken hostage since Thursday. Food and fuel were nearly depleted in the region and more refugees were arriving in North Ossetia, across the border in Russia, TASS said.

Ossetians allege discrimination against themselves seeking independence from the Soviet Union. Georgians insist South Ossetia is historically part of Georgia and refuse to relinquish it to Kremlin control.

The clashes in Tbilisi came despite a government promise Friday to pull back from confrontation despite the refusal of rebel National Guardmen to lay down their arms.

Mr. Gamsakhurdia said he would order his forces away from the man-made Tbilisi area outside the capital. Rebel members of the Georgian National Guard moved their base there late Thursday after vacating the republic's television station.

The rebels defected last month to the opposition, which includes former Gamsakhurdia allies and two dozen parties who accuse the president of ruling like a dictator since being elected last May on a pro-independence platform.

Mesrobian, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's personal envoy, spent several hours Friday in meetings with leaders in the capital of Tskhinvali, where protesters are demanding the removal of the Central Asian republic's recently re-installed Communist leader.

Tskhinvali's Communist-dominated parliament had rebelled against Mr. Gorbachev's assault on the party after last month's Krasnodar putsch. They handed power back to hardliners and imposed a state of emergency, only to face a popular backlash by tens of thousands of people.

St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoly Sobchak and Yevgeny Velikhov, vice president of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, were holding talks with government and opposition officials, including Kadridin Aslanov who was replaced as Aslanov by old-style Communist Rukhman Nabiyev.

Mr. Sobchak spoke to a rally Friday but refused to disclose any details of his talks immediately, TASS reported.

OAS team warns Haiti army chief coup will fail

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — A delegation from the Organisation of American States has warned Haiti it faces a boycott by nations in the Western hemisphere if it doesn't restore President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to power.

Delegates from the United States and eight other nations handed Brig.-Gen. Raoul Cedras a sweeping package of proposed sanctions in a two-hour meeting Friday at Haiti's nearly deserted international airport.

Gen. Cedras arrived at the airport and left later in a convoy of six jeeps and small trucks loaded with soldiers. Some of the vehicles were bloodstained. He

made no statement to reporters.

Asked if they had made progress in persuading Gen. Cedras to reinstate Mr. Aristide, Argentine Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella said, "enough to return tomorrow."

After the meeting, the group flew to the neighbouring Caribbean island of Jamaica to spend the night and return for another meeting Friday.

Haitians were left in the dark on developments to reverse the 6-day-old coup that toppled the first democratically elected government in the country's nearly 200-year history.

After a flurry of radio reports of attacks by security forces and a

death toll that Mr. Aristide said had reached about 500, the army Friday banned radio and TV broadcasts "inciting violence."

Soldiers ransacked Radio Lumiere, according to Jean Dominique, director of independent Radio Haiti Inter. The day before, Protestant-run Radio Lumiere had reported a massacre by security forces.

After giving the brief report of the attack, Mr. Dominique said Radio Haiti Inter, too, was going off the air until the "soldiers come to their senses."

Port-Au-Prince, the capital of 1 million, remained tense Friday, with most residents fearing to

return to work. Shortages were setting in. Even though most gas stations were closed and boarded, people stood in long lines hoping to buy kerosene for cooking.

Shum dwellers crowded around water pipes, filling plastic jugs.

A radio report said water pumps were broken in the seaside slum of Cite Soleil, leaving some 200,000 people without drinking water.

President George Bush met with Aristide in Washington Friday. Mr. Bush said he was reluctant to use U.S. military force to reverse Monday's coup "except if American citizens' lives are in any way threatened."

Belgian government collapses

BRUSSELS (R) — Belgium's centre-left coalition government collapsed Friday, after old enemies in the linguistically-divided country flared over telecommunications contracts and arms exports to the Gulf.

Prime Minister Wilfried Martens, Europe's longest serving premier, went to hand in his resignation to King Baudouin after a chaotic cabinet meeting was suspended.

"For the country, this is definitely not a positive period," said Deputy Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene.

"The institutions are shaking on their foundations and the damage has to be repaired, otherwise we will end up in Eastern European situations which will have direct consequences for the people," he told reporters.

It was Mr. Martens's ninth government in 12 years. Unless he can put together a stable coalition, analysts said, national elections scheduled for mid-January are likely to be brought forward. Mr. Dehaene said they could be in mid-December.

The row — as usual in Belgian politics — is between the Francophone and Flemish parties in this linguistically divided country of 10 million. Dozens of governments have fallen since World War II because of arguments between the two communities.

One Flemish party, the moderate Volksunie, had already left the government last weekend in protest at planned arms sales from French-speaking Wallonia to Saudi Arabia.

But a row over telecommunications contracts that would benefit mainly the Flemish region came to a head Friday at the weekly cabinet meeting.

Telecommunications Minister Marcel Colla signed the disputed contracts without cabinet approval. Francophone ministers had threatened to block the deal unless French-speaking Wallonia received revenue from television licences.

The four coalition parties — Socialists and Christian Democrats from both sides of the language divide — had won an easy 118-38 majority in a confidence vote Thursday night.

But the bitter tone of arguments among the coalition parties during the debate led political analysts to conclude that it was only a stay of execution for Mr. Martens.

South Africans outraged over jailing of tortured black boy

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Human rights activists expressed outrage that a black boy tortured for stealing a television set from a white farmer was jailed while the farmer received a suspended sentence for attempted murder.

The farmer welded the 16-year-old to a steel table, doused him with petrol and set him alight after accusing him of stealing the television set, a court in northern Transvaal heard last week.

The farmer was fined 5,000 rand (\$1,700), given a suspended five-year sentence and ordered to pay 40,000 rand (\$13,000) compensation to the boy.

But the youth, after admitting previous convictions, was sentenced to up to five years in a juvenile prison for the theft which he continues to deny. Farm workers saved the boy by dousing the flames with water.

"This has rightly caused something of an uproar. Comparisons are inevitably going to be made between the farmer's sentence and the boy's," South Africa's biggest black daily, The Sowetan, said.

An independent human rights group known as Lawyers for Hu-

man Rights said it was appalled by the jailing of the boy.

"The Minister of Correctional Services, Adrian Vlok is legally empowered to order the boy's release and we urge him to put this to good use," it said.

"(The African National Congress) is totally outraged. This is unfortunately typical of South Africa's judicial system ... which is controlled and staffed by a minority which will favour the minority," ANC information chief Palo Jordan told Reuters.

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Mulroney portrayed as former drunk

TORONTO (AP) — The hottest book of the political season portrays Prime Minister Brian Mulroney as a former drunkard who bragged about his conquests of women, lied about his academic record and as a youth smuggled contraband French bull semen.

But Mulroney: The Politics of Ambition by respected Ottawa journalist John Sawatsky, also depicts the prime minister as a charming, loyal and hard-working lawyer who succeeded as a Labour lawyer and company president en route to political power.

The prime minister's office says

Mr. Mulroney will not comment on the book, which hit stores across the country this week and is selling briskly at about \$32 a copy.

Many of its disclosures, including the claims of heavy drinking, have been more or less common knowledge for years. But the book comes on top of a long string of polls showing support dipping for the prime minister and his Conservative Party as low as 12 to 15 per cent.

To say Mr. Mulroney is unpopular is to underestimate the vehemence of many Canadians' feel-

ings. His troubles stem largely from his economic policies and unpopular taxes.

The Canadian press has focused largely on the negative aspects of the new biography, which covers Mr. Mulroney's life up to the time he was elected prime minister in 1984.

But the 557-page book also shows a certain admiration for the single-minded determination of a boy who grew up in a blue-collar family in Baie Comore on the north shore of the St. Lawrence River, an Irish-Canadian in Francophone Quebec.

Africans claim right to U.N. post

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The head of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), Friday stepped up lobbying efforts for the U.N. secretary-general's post, saying a "proper sense of justice" dictates that an African be chosen for the first time.

Nigeria's president, Gen. Ibrahim Babangida, also urged expanding the 15-nation Security Council to make it more representative. The council will recommend a successor for retiring Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

"Africa... calls on the rest of the world to apply a proper sense of justice in considering the appointment of a new United Nations secretary-general," said Gen. Babangida, in his address to the General Assembly.

"We strongly believe that the next secretary-general should be an African."

Gen. Babangida's call for an African to be chosen secretary-

general was the latest step in growing campaigns by various nations and groups for the post held by Mr. Perez de Cuellar since 1981.

Some diplomats have courted Non-Aligned members of the Security Council to vote in favour of an African or Asian. But any of the permanent members — the United States, Britain, France, China and the Soviet Union — can veto a candidate.

The Security Council is to hold closed consultation Monday on possible candidates and procedural matters, and hopes to make a recommendation at the end of the month.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar, a Peruvian, ends his second five-year term Dec. 31. The 166-nation General Assembly must approve by a two-thirds vote any candidate recommended by the council.

No front-runner has emerged, but a London newspap-

er reported Friday that Britain has decided to back Zimbabwe's Finance Minister, Bernard Chidzero. The Independent quoted anonymous diplomats as saying Britain will back Mr. Chidzero in the first Security Council vote, but may not stay with him if he fails to get the recommendation in the first round.

But a senior British U.N. diplomat, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Britain does not object to Mr. Chidzero but has made no decision on its favoured candidate.

Other candidates often suggested as possible candidates include Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister Boutros Ghali; Gen. Ousegben Obasanjo, a former Nigerian president; Ali Alatas, foreign minister of Indonesia; Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland of Norway; and Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, a top U.N. official who carries Swiss and Iranian passports.

3 Kashmir militants killed in battle with soldiers

SRINAGAR, India (AP) — Muslim separatists and army troops duelled with rifles and machine guns Saturday across a downtown river, leaving at least three guerrillas dead, police said.

The shooting started when militants hiding in the maze of lanes and buildings in the old downtown area opened fire on army troops at the start of a house-to-house search, according to witnesses who spoke on condition of anonymity.

About 1,000 residents, who had been ordered to sit in an adjoining cemetery during the searches, were trapped for several hours when the shooting started. At one point the people covered face down on the ground for 20 minutes when troops fired in the air.

Some hid behind white marble tombstones. The gunfire and the government's tight security cordon prevented people from leaving the area.

An Associated Press reporter who lives in the area under fire said the shooting started at 8:40 a.m. (0310 GMT) Saturday and continued through the afternoon almost without interruption.

Police said one militant identified as Shaikat Ali and two unidentified rebels were killed and two others injured in the shooting.

Most of the firing took place across the Jhelum River near a burned-out bridge. The bridge was destroyed about two weeks ago. Residents blamed security forces, and the government blamed the militants.

More than 1,300 people have been killed in the Kashmir insurgency so far this year.

The movement to secede from India, initially to join neighbouring Pakistan but now a full-fledged independence revolt, has periodically simmered and boiled since Britain relinquished colonial rule in 1947.

The Indian subcontinent was partitioned along religious lines into overwhelmingly Muslim Pakistan and predominantly Hindu India.

The Hindu ruler of the old princely state of Jammu-Kashmir pulled his predominantly Muslim territory to the Indian side.

Today Jammu-Kashmir is the only state in India with a Muslim majority. Nationwide, Muslims make up only 12 per cent of the Indian population of 844 million, but in Jammu-Kashmir they account for about two-thirds of the 6 million residents.

Labour senses U.K. ready for its brand of socialism

BRIGHTON, England (R) — Britain's Labour Party ended its annual conference on a buoyant note Friday, sensing a public mood for a return to socialist principles that could restore it to power after 12 years in opposition.

"I never want to see socialism at the Margins of British politics again," declared party leader Neil Kinnock, in an emotional final appeal to party faithful before next year's general election.

Labour is now running neck-and-neck with the ruling conservatives in opinion polls.

Mr. Kinnock, 49, has struggled to unite a party which was in disarray when he took charge eight years ago and has appeared confident his efforts have not been in vain.

"When we next meet, we shall meet in government," he said.

He accused Conservative Prime Minister John Major, who has to select the date of the poll sometime before next July, of

running scared after he ruled out the possibility of a snap election this year.

Mr. Kinnock's approach was based on a sense that laissez-faire policies inspired by Mr. Major's predecessor, Margaret Thatcher, who cut taxes and relied on free market forces, had lost favour.

With the country mired in its second economic recession in a decade, Labour stresses the human cost of high unemployment and erosion of state welfare services.

They also say the Conservatives are in no position to use their traditional electioneering line — that only they can be trusted to run Britain's economy.

Labour stresses a commitment to society, not simply fostering individual prosperity, partly to counter criticism that the two big parties are fighting only over who is the best qualified economic manager.

One political commentator said Kinnock and Major were both espousing "welfare capitalism."

Column

Liz Taylor to wed in lavish ceremony

LOS ANGELES (R) — Elizabeth Taylor will walk down the aisle with husband number seven, building worker Larry Fortensky, in a million-dollar wedding Sunday taken straight from the script of a soap opera.

The twice-married Fortensky, who drove bulldozers on building sites until he swapped them for a chauffeur-driven Jaguar, will marry Mrs. Taylor in a place called Neverland Valley while doves of peace fly overhead and an 80-strong security guard patrols the grounds.

The invited guest list reads like a California society who's who, including two former presidents, and the 59-year-old bride, 20 years older than her husband-to-be, will be given away by a rock star, Michael Jackson.

"Even Hollywood would not have dared to get away with this one," a close friend of Mrs. Taylor, who has been working on the wedding arrangements, said. The bodyguards, some on horseback and other in jeeps, will patrol Jackson's sprawling ranch, where the wedding will take place, 160 kilometres northwest of Los Angeles, watching for unwanted guests. The woman who has wed seven times — she married Welsh actor Richard Burton twice — and has been widowed once and walked away from six divorces, will marry in yellow. Although all wedding arrangements are a close secret, an aide said the 200 guests have been asked to avoid wearing yellow. Taylor's \$30,000 dress has been designed by one of her two favourite designers, Valentino. Her other favourite designer, Gianni Versace, was given the consolation prize. He has designed Fortensky's tuxedo.

Passersby profit as 1m Swiss francs drops from train

BEILINZONA, Switzerland (AP) — Passersby received an unexpected windfall after a bag containing one million Swiss francs (\$670,000) fell from a post-al train. The sack of money, destined for various banks in this southern Swiss town, was apparently sucked out of an open door as the train left a tunnel, officials said.

Gianfelice Colombo, Beilinzona area postal director, said the loss was discovered some 2½ hours later at 5 a.m. (0400 GMT). He said in the meantime several trains had driven over the bag, scattering its contents. Mr. Colombo said that by late afternoon only 200,000 francs (\$138,000) had been recovered. Police were investigating reports of passersby gathering up the stray banknotes, he said.

Rod Stewart, Rachel Hunter expect first child

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (R) — British rocker Rod Stewart and his New Zealand-born wife Rachel Hunter are expecting their first child about April, Hunter's manager said Friday.

The child will be the fourth for Stewart, 46, who married supermodel Hunter, 21, in Los Angeles last year. "She said that everyone had been extremely positive for her and Rod was sitting there and couldn't get the smile off his face," manager Andy Haden told Radio New Zealand, recounting his conversation with Hunter.

British tabloids have reported that Stewart, a soccer fanatic, planned to fly his wife to Scotland for the birth so that if the baby was a boy he could represent that country at soccer. The child will be Hunter's first. Stewart has two children, Kimberley and Sean, from his first marriage to Alana Hamilton and a three-year-old daughter, Ruby, by former girlfriend Kelly Emberg.

U.K. prosecutor quits after incident in red light area

LONDON (R) — Britain's director of public prosecutions resigned Thursday after police stopped him for alleged kerb-crawling — cruising a red light district in a car. The police said Sir Allan Green, 56, was seen talking to a prostitute. He was not arrested. "I bitterly regret what has happened," Mr. Green told Attorney General Sir Patrick Mayhew, who said: "In resigning immediately he has behaved in a most honourable way."